

UFO

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PLAIN DEALER, Cleveland, OH - May 27, 2001 CR: G. Duplantier/B. Robbins

UFO investigator chases out-of-this-world reports

By MICHAEL SANGIACOMO
PLAIN DEALER REPORTER

Denise Knitz saw a strange egg-shaped object in the sky as she drove along Interstate 75 near Bowling Green. It was low and slow, kissing the treetops until it suddenly streaked across the night sky.

At least 17 other travelers say they also saw the object Oct. 31.

John Timmerman of Lakeview, near Lima, was not one of the 18, but he smiles when he talks about it. He says Knitz's sighting may be the best "close encounter" he has investigated in more than 50 years because it had "multiple, credible witnesses giving the same very specific information."

Timmerman, treasurer of the Center for UFO Studies in Chicago, has been investigating mysterious objects in the night sky and silvery discs in the daylight since 1948. Even though he has "never been blessed with the experience" of having seen a UFO himself, the 77-year-old retired banker from Lima is convinced that something is out there.

"I believe that the source of these sightings is extraterrestrial," he said. "We're being visited by something from a place so different that we can't even comprehend it. People always criticize the lack of a perfect, clear photograph of a UFO. Maybe these things cannot be photographed at all."

Skeptics like Lawrence Krauss, chairman of the physics department at Case Western Reserve University, argue that believing UFOs are piloted by extraterrestrials is ridiculous.

"Consider the enormous amount of time and energy that would be needed to get here," he said. "It would take the energy of a star to do it. And why would they do it just to drop in and take off again? Also, the government has a huge amount of software to detect anything entering our atmosphere. They would see it."

When asked about government surveillance of UFOs, Timmerman laughed at alleged disinterest by federal authorities.

"The government pretends not to care about UFOs," said Timmerman. "How could they ignore something with that kind of impact? I think the government has been having high-performance aircraft taking pictures of these things for years. They don't need us to tell them about UFOs; they know all about them."

een night. "She and the others saw something very extraordinary," he said. "I would love to know exactly what it was."

Knitz said she was making a delivery for Chuck's Pizza in Cygnet and had just gotten off the Cygnet exit of I-75. She looked right, toward a field, and saw something she will never forget.

"This black craft drifted out over the trees," Knitz said. "It was sort of like an egg on its side with this weird blue-white glow at the back. It was about the size of three cars and had no wings, no wheels, no tail. It was perfectly silent. It was headed right over I-

75, not very high off the ground, and it just hung there."

"Then it pivoted about 30 degrees and there was a big burst of light from the back of it and it took off," she continued. "It was there one second, gone the next, leaving a trail of light across the sky."

Knitz said she delivered the pizza, then returned to the area, where she met Tim O'Neil, a classical piano teacher from Michigan. He and a friend were driving home from a Florida vacation. The UFO was still visible.

"It was not far from where I was before," she said. "The man

lice officers, pilots, professionals, politicians — people from all levels of the social strata.

Krauss said that in order for scientists to take note of alien life, someone would have to come up with extraordinary evidence, such as a chunk of alien technology, or a chunk of an alien. Photos and eyewitness testimony, no matter how credible, are not enough, he said.

So volunteers such as Timmerman continue to plug along, looking for that unimpeachable sighting. He approaches his job cautiously, looking for logical explanations to the phenomena.

Defying explanation

Over the years, he has interviewed several thousand people who claimed to have seen uniden-

tified flying objects. He said most of the sightings are easily explained as high-flying aircraft; the bright planet Venus (often mistaken for a UFO); advertising blimps; or hoaxes.

"Then there are the sightings that we cannot explain," he said. "Those are the ones I investigate."

Ohio, with 356 sightings, ranks ninth in the nation for the overall number of UFO sightings since the mid-1980s, according to the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle. The Web site at www.nwlink.com/~ufocntr/ lists brief reports on all the sightings.

Timmerman, who concentrates on sightings in Ohio, wishes he could conduct more thorough investigations, but he is constrained by time, travel and finances. He has no high-tech laboratory to study soil samples or plant fibers

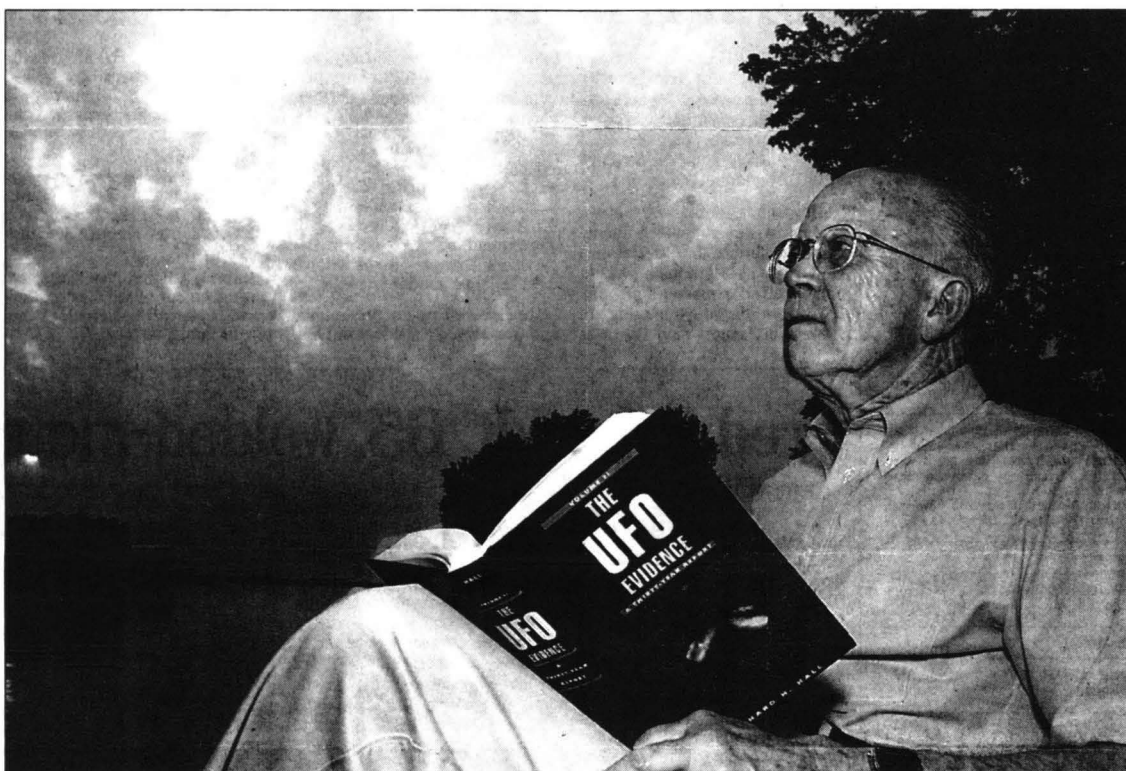
but consults with scientists and astronomers frequently.

"At the very least, I document what happened," he said. "I have thousands of reports filed by people who have seen UFOs and hundreds of taped interviews. I'm just one guy, but I do what I can. I feel I can at least pass on this wealth of information and raw data to someone who will take up where I left off someday."

He said he has become something of an expert in interviewing people who have seen UFOs, and he can spot a prankster in a minute.

'It was real'

He was thrilled to speak with Knitz, 42, of Bloomdale, who contacted him because no one else seemed very interested in what she and others saw that Hallow-



JOSIE LIMING / SPECIAL TO THE PLAIN DEALER

John Timmerman of Lakeview, south of Lima, relaxes in his back yard. The 77-year-old retired banker has been investigating UFOs in Ohio and elsewhere for more than 50 years.

The official line

Timmerman worked closely with the late J. Allen Hynek, the founder of the Center for UFO Studies. Hynek worked with the U.S. Air Force on Project Blue Book, the official investigation into flying-saucer sightings from 1952 to 1969.

The Air Force concluded that there was insufficient evidence to prove the existence of alien visitations. Timmerman said Hynek was unhappy with the reports and complained that the Air Force investigators merely used him for legitimacy in the UFO field.

Timmerman noted the thousands of reports each year from people across the country who say they saw strange things in the sky. The reports come from po-

[O'Neil] pointed out over the woods and the thing was there, hovering above the trees. This time, it had orange and green lights on it. They said they tried to get closer to it, but when they did, their car started to lose power. They turned around and fled."

She said she was going to report the sight to police, but O'Neil did it first.

"Our bad luck was that it happened on Halloween," she said. "They thought it was just another crazy Halloween stunt. But it was not; it was real."

"People have told me it was a

blimp," she added. "I've seen plenty of blimps in my life, and they don't move like that. I wish I had a logical explanation. The shape and the way it moved really freaked me out."

Timmerman said he may never figure out what Knitz saw, but not for lack of trying. His wife, Margaretha, thinks he tries too hard.

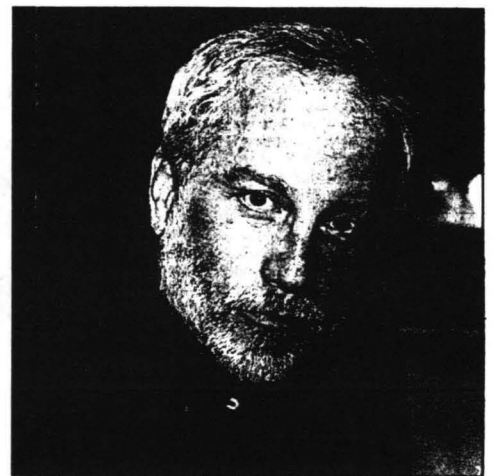
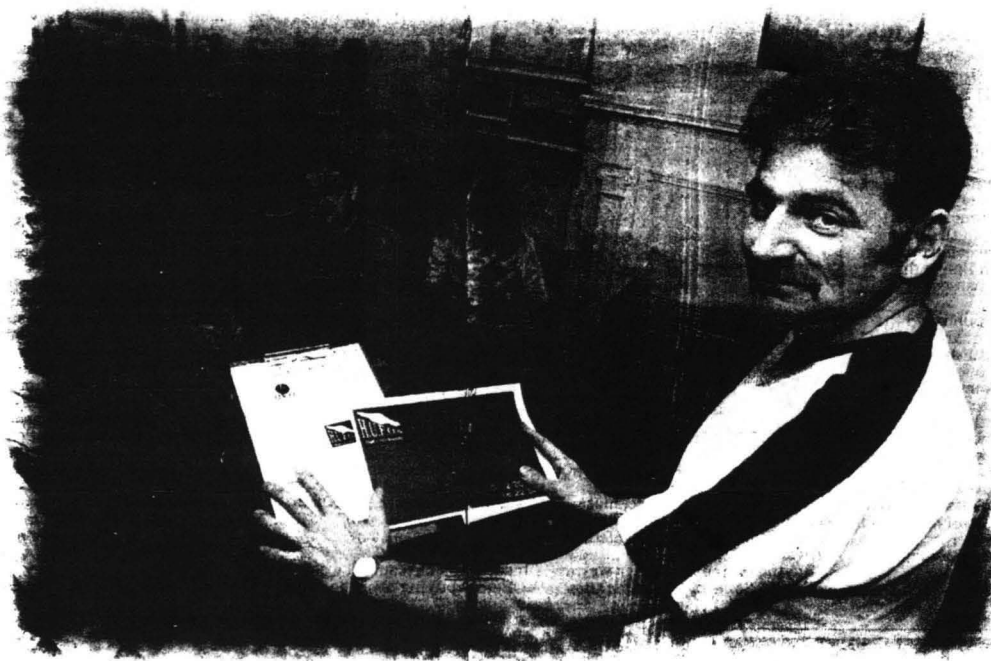
"I want to enjoy our retirement, travel, and do things together," she said. "He's working harder now than he ever did."

For further information from Timmerman, call 937-843-3834.
E-mail: msangiaco@plaind.com
Phone: 216-995-4890



DAILY MAIL, Hull, England - Oct. 20, 2001

Scanning skies for a close encounter



'NOT ANORAKS': Sean Tierney speaks to fellow members of the Hull UFO Society at their meeting in the Friends Meeting House, Percy Street, Hull, and (above) actor Richard Dreyfuss, star of *Close Encounters of The Third Kind*.

By TONY LACEY

IN CLOSE Encounters of the Third Kind, Richard Dreyfuss sculpted a mound of mashed potato into the shape of an unknown mountain – all because he'd seen some strange lights in the night sky.

Eventually, his quest to find a UFO took over his life, leading him across the U.S.

Sean Tierney doesn't go quite that far. As president of Hull UFO Society, he treats any unusual sightings seriously, but he doesn't let his hobby rule his life.

"We're not sad anoraks," he says. "We're friends first, ufologists second."

While reports of UFOs are treated in confidence and with a great deal of interest, Sean prefers keeping himself and the group down to earth. He's far from the stereotypical image of the sci-fi lover tracking down every book and video on the subject.

Of his interest in unidentified flying objects, Sean jokes that he can "take it or leave it. I can't remember the last time I saw a UFO programme on television."

Hull UFO Society is a lively group which investigates sightings properly. But members don't let themselves get too overwhelmed in theories of cover-ups and government intrigue.

The society meets once a month to discuss the latest happenings in the world of UFOs, and often has guest speakers. Nicholas Redfern, an author on the subject, has appeared before. The speakers give talks for enjoyment rather than money. They all stay at Sean's house and aren't paid for appearing. It's this human touch that helps make the society approachable to experts and novices alike.

Meetings also include talks by the society's members and videos of sightings and strange occurrences. Sean often gives talks and has



IS IT A BIRD? A sighting of a UFO above Cottingham in the late 1980s... or a trick of the camera?

appeared on Radio Humberside, spreading the word of a sighting. After the show, his phone didn't stop ringing for three hours – every call was another witness.

Hoping to catch something flashing across the stars, the society goes out on two sky watches a month. One is local, in areas such as the outskirts of the city, while another takes the group further afield to places such as the Yorkshire Moors, where they can get a clear view of the night sky.

Sometimes they have been lucky. Sean's latest sighting was in Scarborough in February, when he saw two bright lights in the night, moving silently and in tandem

across the sky. Without access to a camcorder, Sean called his son – who, miles away, could also see it.

Crucially, Sean's son had a camcorder to hand and now Sean has two minutes of footage of the strange lights. He has offered to show it to the Ministry of Defence (MoD), but they were cryptically coy about it, saying that the sighting was not of "defence significance".

Determined to find out more – and with witnesses from places as far apart as Leeds and Newcastle – Sean persevered, contacting government and military agencies.

RAF Waddington, in Lincolnshire, was muted in its response. "They said the only

thing in the area was a search and rescue helicopter," Sean says. "But what's that I've got on video?"

He still hasn't got an answer to his question, but will continue to investigate the incident.

Despite many witness statements, Sean says the standard reply from government agencies to reported sightings is unhelpful at best.

"RAF Leconfield, Humberside Airport, the Ministry of Defence, the police – all of them give us the standard fob-off," he says.

The replies to the society's reports are usually formulaic "thanks but no thanks" and that there is "nothing in the area".

While those still on the Government payroll may be keeping tight-lipped about events in the sky, former employees are more forthcoming. Past speakers to the society have included Nick Pope, from the MoD, and ex-American military man Larry Warren. They offer insider secrets on UFOs and help the group learn a little bit more about what may be in the skies above.

For those who would rather sit back and read about UFOs than scour the stars looking for them, the society produces a bi-monthly magazine. For just £1 an issue, readers can find out the latest reports from across the world in their quest to learn more about whatever it is we may be sharing our universe with.

Sean's favourite advice is: "Remember, look up to skies, see something, report it".

● If you spot something among the stars, contact Sean on (01482) 219887 to report it in complete confidence. Alternatively, check the society's website at: <http://www.hullufo.society.moonfruit.com/>.

If you want to find out first-hand what the society is like, it meets at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of every month. The next meeting is on Tuesday, November 13, at Friend's Meeting House, Percy Street, Hull.

Entry is £1.30, or £2.30 when a speaker is booked.

Cyberspace: The final frontier

Website launched in bid to crack UFO mysteries

INTERNET alien-hunters have launched a bid to solve the riddle of a North-east flying saucer hotspot.

The sleepy village of Muchalls, near Stonehaven, has become one of Scotland's UFO capitals after mysterious flashing lights were reported in the skies.

Now a website has been launched to log the spooky X-Files-style phenomena.

The man behind the site said he first became aware of the unidentified visitors as a boy in the early 1970s.

"I was on my way home from Mackie Academy going west from Muchalls in the direction of Cookney when to my right there was a strange red light that flashed on and off once every second," said Dr Tom Moir - who now lives in New Zealand.

"What I found strange was the light seemed to be moving parallel to me, stopping and starting when I did."

He claimed the silent craft hovered eerily over a wood near Muchalls Castle before vanishing.

"The day after that first experience I remember telling the tale to my science teacher at school," Tom recalled. "He said I must have been looking

by Marc Horne

through the bottom of a whisky bottle - I felt very alone."

The university electronics engineer claims he saw the strange lights on countless other occasions.

"It was very much a part of everyday life in our early teens," the Auckland resident said.

"I used to study for my 'O' grades and then go outside to see them, the lights, hovering over nearby farms and woods."

He added: "Eat your heart out Mulder and Scully - we beat you by 30 years."

Tom set up the website to allow others to log their strange experiences.

Muchalls resident and local councillor Carl Nelson said he had not seen any UFOs but added: "Over the years people have spoken about seeing strange things in the sky."

"The village is in the flightpath for planes and helicopters but I don't know if there is any connection with the sightings."

The Muchalls UFO site is on www.angelfire.com/mo/muchalls

● Have you seen anything mysterious in the sky call the Evening Express on (01224) 690222 ext 3516.



THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE: The high number of reports of strange lights in the sky and weird sightings around Muchalls has led to a former resident establishing a website to log the incidents.

Close encounters at North-east hotspot

ACCORDING to the British UFO Research Association the Muchalls area has been the centre of several unexplained close encounters.

● An oval, silver, luminous object passed silently in front of an Aberdeen housewife near the coastal community in June, 1968.

● A "glowing figure" appeared before a couple on the A90 Aberdeen-Stonehaven road one morning in November, 1968.

● A large saucer-shaped craft was reported north of Newtonhill above the Burn of Elsieck in May, 1969, by several witnesses.

One woman claimed: "At first it looked like a huge ball of fire and we thought it was a plane going to crash. As we got closer it appeared to be made of highly polished aluminium - like two saucers clapped together."

It was seen to emit two blasts of highly coloured gas before vanishing.

● Pulsing bright, white lights were seen near Cammachmore in June, 1992.

● In September, 1994, Newtonhill office worker Ethel Morrison and her brother David saw "an

enormous, luminous cloud" and "rays of white light" above the Newtonhill flyover.

● Two Glasgow tourists saw a "glowing triangle" while driving past Muchalls in 1998.

SWINDON EVENING ADVERTISER, Wiltshire, England - Nov. 9, 2001

Strange meeting in crop circle country

By NIGEL KERTON
nkerton@newswwits.co.uk

A CONFERENCE about strange phenomena is to be held near the Wiltshire epicentre of the long-running crop circle enigma.

Called Mysteries of the World 2001, the gathering will be held at Marlborough Leisure Centre on Saturday, November 17, and hundreds of people are expected to attend.

Marlborough is just a few miles from Avebury, the internationally-regarded hub of British crop-circle appearances.

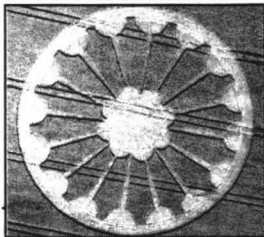
Conference organiser Kerry Blower lives just yards from fields where some of the most spectacular formations of recent years have been seen.

Kerry, 38, first became interested in unusual happenings after spotting a golden, hovering UFO while living in Aberavenny seven years ago.

She said: "I went a bit nutty afterwards - I was completely obsessed with everything to do with UFOs."

"When I moved to Wiltshire, I

Delegates will discuss mysteries of the world



■ Crop circle at Alton Barnes

decided to carry on and organise conferences in Marlborough, because there was nothing like it being held here."

Kerry keeps an open mind on the question of whether crop circles are the work of alien entities, paranormal forces or simply pranksters. She said: "I was a total believer, but for the last two years I have been a total sceptic - but

then I crept back. At the moment I don't know what to think."

Speakers at the conference will include Reg Presley, leader of 1960s group The Troggs and now a respected ufologist.

Also speaking will be Polly Carson, the Alton Barnes farmer whose land has featured some of the most spectacular formations in the area.

John Cowie who comes from Devizes and is author of *Silbury Dawning: The Alien Visitor Gene Theory*, will be talking about his belief that human intelligence may originally have been implanted by visiting aliens.

And for conference-goers more interested in conspiracy theories, author Jon King and others will be talking about the the mystery they claim still surrounds the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Tickets cost £25 and are available from Kerry and Tom Blower on (01672) 861435 or 07939 658246.

NORTHERN ECHO, Darlington, England - July 21, 2001



STATESIDE
BY HUGH DOUGHERTY

ALIENS have been sighted over the hills of New Jersey, the state next door to New York.

Local news channels have reported sightings of mysterious lights in the skies and claims of UFOs above the ground.

New Jersey is more used to sightings of politicians in handcuffs on their way to jail for corruption or of the stars of the Sopranos filming their new episodes.

But the "proof" of existence of life in outer space has an extra dimension in Manhattan. Wits are quipping that it might prove there's life, but it certainly proves it's not intelligent - because nobody with any sense would head for Jersey when Manhattan is next door.

Alvaston can claim first UFO sighting

HOW dare you give the Swiss the credit for the first recorded UFO sighting?

Right in here in Alvaston we had one over 800 years earlier, as detailed in the 13th century records of Burton Abbey.

On the October 14, 1253, a wonderful sight was witnessed by a number of people at Alvaston, including one Nicholas of Findern, who duly reported it to the Abbey authorities, as follows:

"About the hour of vespers, the sky being clear, suddenly a large bright star appeared out of a black cloud, with two smaller stars in the vicinity."

"A battle royal soon commenced, the small stars charging into the great star again, and again, so that it began to diminish in size, and sparks of fire fell from the combatants."

"This continued for a considerable time, and at last the spectators, stupefied by fear and wonder, and ignorant of what it might portend, fled."

Not only an early UFO sighting, but Star Wars too!

This account is from A. W. Davison's "Derby: Its rise and progress", published by Benrose & Sons, in 1906, way before the term "Flying saucer", or UFO, had been coined.

John Hudson,
Penzance Road,
Alvaston.

CHILBOLTON HISTORY AND CROP FORMATIONS

by Lucy Pringle

The village of Chilbolton in Hampshire lies in the Test Valley situated between the A3057 Stockbridge - Andover road and the B3420 road from Winchester to Andover. It is about 15 miles north of Winchester and 5 miles south of Andover. (1)

Like so many English villages, Chilbolton is rich in history ranging throughout the ages. Axe heads and flints left by Stone Age man (250,000 - 8,000 BC) tell us that this part of England was active in prehistory. A long barrow dating back to our Neolithic ancestors, some 4,000 - 1,800 BC was discovered in 1924 on the Chilbolton - Leckford boundary.

Several bowl barrows dating from 1,800 - 800 BC have also been found indicating that Bronze Age man also settled in and worked this area. Exhibits of the earliest dated flints from Chilbolton can be seen in the British Museum. Winchester Museum also holds many flints and other ancient artefacts from this area.

This area is also rich in ancient hill forts, Danebury and Woolbury ring Forts being close by.

The early history of Chilbolton and its environs is by no means peaceful; the Romans, under General Vespasian (9-79 AD) entered Winchester, changing its name to *Caer Gwent*. Indeed over the years Winchester was known by several names and it was not until later that it bore the name by which we now know it. Around 514 the area around Southampton and Winchester came under Saxon rule. In 608 a large area around Winchester, including Chilbolton was given the name of The Hundred Hides of Chilcomb.

It was King Egbert in about 829 who made Winchester his capital city and reputedly built a hunting lodge in Chilbolton. Not long after King Egbert, Chilbolton was raided and pillaged every springtime by the Vikings, who would sail down the river Test to Chilbolton, lay waste to the land, terrorising the people as they went.

The remains of a Roman settlement have been found at Chilbolton adjoining the Radio Telescope. Coins dating to the time of Allectus (293 AD) were unearthed. Indeed numerous coins of Valerian 1, Claudius 11, Crispus and Constantinus 11 from the times of 256 - 378 have been found over the years spread over the now disused Chilbolton airfield.

It is thought that Ceobold, the Saxon gave his name to Chilbolton. Indeed over the years just as Winchester was known by various names, so the name by which Chilbolton was known altered.

In Saxon times:	Ceolbaldinctura
A.D. 909:	Ceolboldingtun
Domesday:	Cilboldentune
1284:	Cilboldentune
Richard 1:	Chilboldinton

In the time of King Athelstan (925 - 934) legend has it that a great battle was fought between the Chilbolton giant who was laying waste to the land, and Sir Guy Warwick. So great was the terror instilled by the giant that King Athelstan fled, locking himself safely in Chilbolton. A fearsome battle ensued in which eventually Sir Guy was victorious, slaying the giant with his mighty sword.

Stories of giants abound wherever you find long barrows for our ancestors believed them to be the resting places of these enormous men.

In 1986 before drilling started, the oil companies Amoco and Ultramar agreed to an examination by archaeologists of the proposed drilling site situated on an old airfield (now the site of the Radio Telescope) near the village of Chilbolton. This was led by Dr Russell Taylor of the Test Valley Archaeological Committee.

Two skeletons along with other valuable artefacts were found in an undisturbed burial mound. Amongst the most notable finds were two pairs of gold earrings and two bowls dating back to the early 'Beaker' period of the Bronze Age some 4000 years ago. The discovery of the two pairs of earrings was particularly important "as only four or five gold earrings have previously been found in such sites separately in England".

To find two pairs together in the same place is so exceptional and could possibly be the only such example found in north west Europe. The other artefacts, a copper dagger, a bronze spatula and a flint knife, found on the site are on display at Andover Museum together with the earrings and decorated bowls. (2)

The Markway, still in existence, was one of the most ancient roads in England running southwards from Fullerton Bridge, forming the boundary west of Chilbolton. Our ancestors from times immemorial used this prehistory track as they travelled with their flocks and it is thought to have been the route taken by the early travellers to Stonehenge.

Our Neolithic forebears even before 3,000 BC were active, travelling great distances selling their beautifully made hand

axes and they too would have trod the Markway.

The site of the Markway now passes close to the Radio Telescope at Chilbolton.

Over recent years several crop formations have appeared near this ancient area of Chilbolton, one in 1990 resting on the age-old Mark Way.

Another beautiful formation was found in 1992 on the edge of Chilbolton in Stragglers field, close to a tumulus. I remember visiting it and its small adjacent circle within days of its arrival. Strange things happened the night it formed, some said there was a blanket of mist, others spoke of seeing a strange off white and very bright light very high up, travelling from horizon to horizon at great speed. A few days later a small aircraft and a micro-light both crashed in the same barley field as the crop circles. Some put it down to the turbulent air conditions but we cannot rule out the possibility of residual electromagnetic fields interfering with the aircraft. A similar catastrophic event happened when an

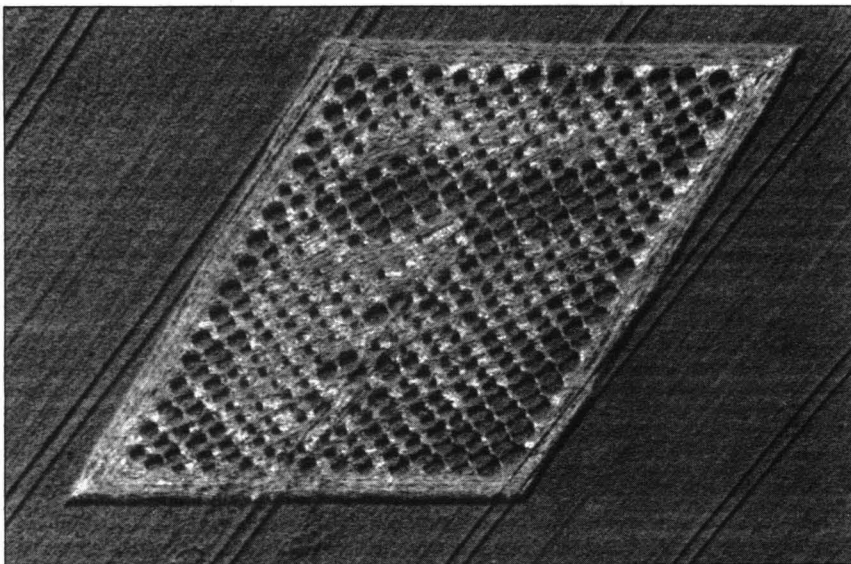


PHOTO 1 ~ Location: Chilbolton Hampshire ~ Date Formed: 14 August 2001 ~ Crop: Wheat

aircraft crashed on Pewley Down, Guildford, Surrey on 15 August 1993 (3) The conclusion after a year's intensive investigation by the Air Accident Control Board was an Open Verdict. They could find no explanation.

In 2000 a large and elaborate formation, resembling a piece of jewellery, appeared in the field north of and adjacent to the radio telescope.

On the 14 August 2001, yet another formation was discovered, once more in the field north of the Radio Telescope. Someone riding her horse along the public footpath bordering onto the field kindly notified me. When I flew over the field I was surprised to see two formations not one. One was a large rectangle (90 x 265 ft) and my first impression was that it was some kind of communication, probably a computer chip?

The second formation, a smaller rectangle measuring 145 x 165 ft was completely indecipherable from the air; I could see no meaning to it.

It was not until I was at the photographic lab later that day that my printer said 'Oh, there's a face!' The picture has to be viewed at a particular angle for the 3D face to become startlingly apparent. (Photo 1)

I immediately scanned the pictures and emailed them to computer expert Paul Vigay (<http://www.cropcirclesearch.com>) requesting his identification of the 'computer chip'. Within minutes he telephoned to say that it was not a computer chip; he had instantly recognised the 'chip' as having a striking resemblance to the Arecibo message sent to globular star cluster M13 in 1974 by SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence).

The message was pulsed by the radio telescope in binary form, consisting of 1679 pulses. 1679 is a unique combination of two prime numbers, 23 and 73. Binary being the universal language used when attempting to communicate with other intelligences. This message, found on the 20 August, contained a large amount of encoded information about life on planet earth and its inhabitants. (Photo 2)

Paul noted that there were several discrepancies, notably in addition to the five atomic numbers that consisted of the necessary elements for life on this planet of Phosphorus, Oxygen, Nitrogen, Carbon and Hydrogen, a sixth atomic number, namely no 14, depicting Silicone had been added.

It has been suggested that if there are other intelligences, they could well be silicone based as opposed to us on earth who are carbon based.

(continued on page 5)

In addition there were discrepancies in the DNA, notably an additional strand on the left of the double helix. The height of the humanoid was not only considerably smaller (approx: 5ft 9ins in the original message, now approx 3ft 4ins) but had a larger head. The population figure had

increased quite markedly and the solar system instead of high lighting only the third planet from the sun, Earth, the fourth and fifth planets Mars and Jupiter, are also highlighted.

So what are we to make of it? IF it is genuine it is of global significance.

The 'Face' discovered on 14 August, would appear to be male and possibly generic. Many people have found this formation disturbing; certainly we have had nothing like the two formations before; in terms of construction and meaning, they are a completely new development.

I visited the formations with the Meridian TV team and buried my 25ml plastic bottles of water plus control samples outside. These remain to be tested.

The lay of the Arecibo message is in a grid like form, the standing crop revealing

the message. The lay in the 'Face' was one I had not seen before; it seemed as though the flattened, swirled crop around each standing tuft had been laid individually. A task that would surely be beyond the ability of man during the short hours of darkness at this time of year? None of the stalks were broken in either formation; they were bent at the base. In the 'Face' I found a stalk with a blown node.

Researchers Charles Mallett and Frances Mallett visited the formation after it had been harvested and whereas there were no underlying lines in the Arecibo message there were grid lines in the 'Face' some measuring 2 inches wide, others were wider but not more than 3 1/2 inches. These were not visible prior to harvesting. I have very narrow feet and if I stand with both my feet together the total width is 7 inches, so 2-3 inches would be less than the width of my one of my feet. How were these lines made?

Whether the origin of the formations is of man or of a complex, discarnate energy as yet unknown to man, they are most impressive in every respect.

In the photographs both formations appear in the positive, whereas previously the large majority of events have been in the negative (i.e. in this instance the standing crop has determined the pattern rather than the fallen crop).

The land is owned by the Leckford estate, part of the John Lewis Group.

I spoke to Ben Gibbons the Leckford Estate manager and he assured me that no-one had been given permission to enter the field to conduct entomological research as had been suggested. In fact he was adamant that any trespassers would have been evicted promptly. He was extremely interested in the two crop formations and could offer no explanation.

I also spoke to Darcy Ladd, manager of the radio telescope and Jan Lass. Indeed when I spoke to the latter she had no idea that the smaller formation was a face and it was not until they looked at my web site (<http://home.clara.net/lucypringle>) that they recognised it as such! She also told me that nothing had shown up on their radar screens during the two nights prior to the discovery of the formations and the meaning of the formations could not be seen from the radio telescope.

The radio telescope (not open to the public) is no longer engaged in any deep space work. It is used for weather research, using pulsed signals. It is owned by the Government but does not come under the auspices of the MOD. In an interview with Linda Moulton-Howe, renowned author, researcher, and radio interviewer (earthfiles@earthfiles.com), Darcy Ladd mentioned that the radio telescope was built in 1965 for the purpose of radio wave propagation studies. "The interest was in the interaction of the radio frequency energy passing through the layers of the atmosphere. The principle aim was to study the effects that communication satellites would undergo, communications with satellites in space. It could look at both celestial or terrestrial sources."

"It is a receiving station, so it does actually transmit. It has never been used for communication. When it was listening to radio stars, it was just looking at the magnitude of the signal and seeing how that changed through the interaction of rain and clouds and the ionosphere. And now it's used as a radar, so we are beaming pulses of energy out and listening for the return echo."

Chilbolton Telescope is engaged in commercial research, it is a Government laboratory, their parent Agency is Rutherford-Appleton Laboratory which is a government laboratory (<http://www.cclrc.ac.uk>) to be found under the Research Council of Britain's Office of Science and Technology.

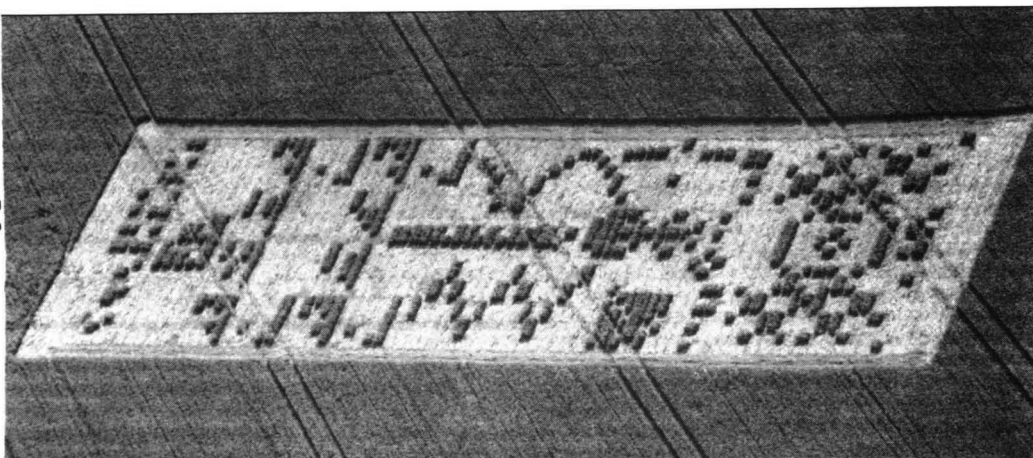


PHOTO 2 ~ Location: Chilbolton, Hampshire ~ Date Formed: 20 August 2001 ~ Crop: Wheat

Darcy Ladd went on to say that their status would be similar to the US FCC (Federal Communications Commission).

He also mentioned that the military were major users of their technology (radio spectrum) in regard to obtaining weather information. (<http://www.cclrc.ac.uk>)

I am greatly indebted to Eleanor Lockyer for her impressive knowledge of the history of Chilbolton on which I have drawn extensively, and to Linda Moulton-Howe for permission to reproduce part of her interview with Chilbolton Observatory manager, Darcy Ladd.

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Overhead view of the formations at Chilbolton, Hampshire

HEALING CIRCLES

by Lucy Pringle

Floods, pestilence and fire! Had we returned to biblical times or were we reaping the devastating rewards of our mismanagement of the planet?

There was no doubting that the effects on people whose lives were caught up in these events, were terrible beyond belief. The floods across almost the whole country left people without homes and many of those in the worst hit areas who had mopped up after the first deluge were often flooded out again within weeks, bringing renewed untold misery and despair.

This was a dire reminder that despite all warnings, Councils throughout Britain were recklessly granting permission for houses to be built on known and existing flood plains.

But worse was to come. In February 2001 the first case of the dreaded Foot and Mouth virus was discovered in Northumberland. Before long the disease had spread like an invasive tentacle across the land, striking without warning and leaving farmers, many with herds of irreplaceable stock, facing ruin. Granted they were paid compensation but that was the monetary aspect, nothing could compensate them for the human desolation and the terrible slaughter of their animals. I dread to think of the gigantic karmic debt we owe the animal world. Farms remained eerily silent, even the birds had lost their song; no animals sounds were to be heard and the farmers now had no reason to get up in the morning to continue routines that had been in place since they could ever remember. Everything was still and empty.

The disease still continues in Northumberland as I write this piece.

Many questions need to be asked and answered regarding the handling of this whole affair and how we control the importation of meat into this country. An enquiry behind closed doors will not suffice. It seems to me that the 'townies' know little about the country and its husbandry.

There were a few counties that escaped the holocaust, Hampshire fortunately being one of them.

Can we think of anything positive behind this terrible human and animal suffering, repercussions of which are still felt today some nine months on? I like to try and think of these shocking events acting as a catharsis. A cleansing if you like. Surely some good must result, even if it means we have only learnt some valuable lessons?

So how did it affect the crop circle phenomenon?

Historical Hampshire

Just as the forecast by some, that there would be no more crop circles after the Millennium, had brought temporary doom and gloom to many, the despondency this year 2001 seemed considerably more profound and widespread. Admittedly the spring was cold and awash with residual water after the winter rains making the sowing of crops so difficult that many farmers had to sow the same fields twice, but on the 11 May reports came in of a circle at Meonstoke below the historic Winchester Hill in Hampshire; a simple circular formation in oilseed rape. (photo 1) This formation consisting of perfect geometry adorned the field, resting serenely, a joyous testimony to the presence and reappearance of the phenomenon. Just as the circles historically first graced Hampshire in the early days, it seemed wonderfully appropriate that in these times of doubt and apprehension, that Hampshire should once again herald the first event and once more bring hope to those faint of heart.



PHOTO 1 - Location: Meonstoke, Hampshire
Date Formed: 11 May 2001 - Crop: Oilseed Rape

My research continued as before with one addition. Over the years many scientists such as Drs Cyril Smith, 'Lefty' Levensgood and Jacques Benveniste have kindly examined and tested my 25ml bottles of buried water with encouraging results. Resonances, levels of bacteria and change of heart rate have all revealed dramatic anomalies. However there comes a time when these services can no longer be given or expected free.

Therefore the quest was on for a suitable means of inexpensive and accurate testing. Christopher Weeks, long time crop circle researcher and fellow member of UNEX (Unexplained Phenomenon Research Society) came up with a possible remedy.

The procedure involves using Merckoquant Nitrate strips. It is an easy method to obtain a quick quantitative determination of NITRATES.

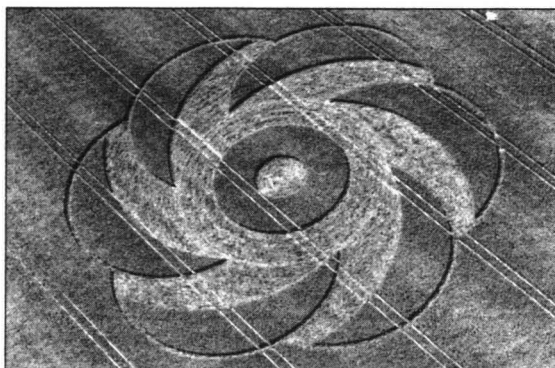


PHOTO 2 - Location: Barbury Castle
Date Formed: 19/20 April 1997 - Crop: Oilseed Rape

The test strip contains two reaction zones at one end, which should not be touched. The zone at the very end indicates both NITRATE and NITRITE, while the other zone reacts only to NITRITE. It serves as a warning zone as any pink to red-violet colouration indicates the presence of NITRITE which interferes with the reaction.

The method of testing is to immerse the strips in the liquid for one second so that both the reaction zones are fully wetted.

Remove the strips; shake off the excess liquid and after one minute compare the reaction zones with the colour scale which is shown on the side of the container.

These strips can also be used to test soil, plant sap and on the plant itself.

The measurements are based on parts per million.

It is recommended that distilled water be used.

We conducted the first tests using this method with the following results.

Report on the tests carried out on 3rd April 2001 at 5 Town Lane, Petersfield, using Merck Eurolab nitrate testing strips.

Tests carried out on (plastic) bottles containing Volvic water buried in crop circles and areas in surrounding field (control) sealed with elastoplast and wrapped in aluminium foil:

Test One

Crop Circle 2000 - six triangles within a circle - opposite Silbury Hill (2 June)

- ❖ Bottle No. 180
Control - edge of field ~ Nitrate: 10 Nitrite: 0
- ❖ Bottle No. 181
Within circle, at apex pointing towards Silbury Hill
Nitrate: 10+ Nitrite: 0
- ❖ Bottle No. 182
Within circle, at centre ~ Nitrate: 10+ Nitrite: 0
- ❖ Bottle No. 183
Within circle - far centre of perimeter
Nitrate: 25 Nitrite: 0+

Test Two

Barbury Castle "Tree of Life" (photo 2) formed on 19/20 April 1997 in oilseed-rape.

Bottles buried on 22 April, retrieved 11 May:

- ❖ Bottle No. 041
Within circle - at apex of first crescent upon entering:
Nitrate: 25+ to -50 Nitrite: +
- ❖ Bottle No. 043
Within circle - at apex of crescent towards Wroughton, going from centre in line with inside of tramline:
Nitrate: 10+ Nitrite: 0
- ❖ Bottle No. 044
Control - patch of green camomile at entrance to field:
Nitrate: 10 Nitrite: 0
- ❖ Bottle No. 045 - Control - under stone by exit under barbed wire fence: Nitrate: -25 Nitrite: 0

Whereas the control tests, conducted from both formations exhibited no Nitrite content, control samples taken from both formations revealed Nitrate contents ranging from 0-10 and in one control sample from the 1997 Tree of Life Barbury Castle, the Nitrate content measured -25.

In every instance the Nitrate reading was higher than the Nitrite.

The highest Nitrate reading (25+ to -50) came from the bottle buried on the perimeter of the 1997 Barbury Castle formation inches away from the location where the anomalous discolouration of stems in the standing crop beyond, were found.

In the control sample taken from the bottle of *unburied* water both the Nitrate and Nitrite content was 0.

It was recommended that distilled water should be used in future. Volvic water was previously used at the recommendation of Dr Cyril Smith who when testing the water for resonances required water that constantly did not go beyond 4Hz. Volvic water contains 6mg of nitrates per litre.

CONCLUSION

It is interesting to note that the frequency of Nitrates were not only able to penetrate the plastic bottles, but the water was able

(continued on page 7)

to retain this frequency, especially in water buried some 5 years previously. It suggested by Jim Lyons that it is really a vibration problem. The water is storing the imprint of nitrite/nitrates, which the test responds to without any physical molecules being present.

These are preliminary results and if we can reproduce these findings they will be significant and certainly of interest to Dr Jacques Benveniste.

Using distilled water, bottles buried in the Meonstoke and Corhampton, Hampshire, South Harting, West Sussex and Beckhampton, Wiltshire formations showed zero results. Bottles buried in the Chilcomb Down, Hampshire, Milk Hill, Wiltshire (12 August) and the two Chilbolton formations, Hampshire, await testing.

In order to remind you of the categories into which effects experienced by people when visiting or are in the vicinity of crop formations fall, the following list may be helpful.

HEALTH CATEGORIES.

ORAL (taste (metallic), tooth pain, unusual thirst)

CRANIAL (headaches)

OCULAR (vision changes, hallucination)

AUDITORY (Acoustic) hearing voices, music etc

GUT (nausea, diarrhoea, sudden hunger etc.)

SYSTEMIC (dizziness, weak knees, leg pain etc.)

MENTAL (thought processes affected, short-term memory loss, feelings of panic, terror, evil, peace, love and light, disorientation, sense of a presence)

I have received a wonderful selection of reports this summer. As always I have to be selective due to limited space.



PHOTO 3 - Location: Berwick Bassett, Wiltshire
Date Formed: 9 June 2001 - Crop: Barley

For several weeks the fields in Wiltshire were out of bounds and therefore it was particularly pleasing when a formation appeared in Berwick Bassett (photo 3) on land that was infected with Foot and Mouth at the time. A fine of up to £5000 could have been imposed on anyone entering banned land in addition to a large court fine if charged and found guilty. It seems unlikely that anyone would chance this risk let alone the possibility of being lynched by the farming community and other country people. Feelings understandably were running high as farmer's livelihoods were at risk.

Are you sure you have broken your collarbone?

The second formation of 2001 that I visited was the Corhampton event. (photo 4) The farmer and his wife, Richard and Susanne Hall were most gracious hosts and accompanied us with their baby Isaac, into the field. A Japanese healer, Hirokazu Kobayashi over on a brief visit and staying at the Buddhist monastery at Chithurst, had longed to visit and experience a crop formation first hand; he telephoned me and along with my old friends David and Colette Ardagh, we all entered the formation.

It was a perfect morning, the air was clear and fresh and the sun had by now gained strength and warmth. The Halls unfortunately could not stay long, so we proceeded with our examination and I buried my bottles. It seemed a special place and Hirokazu conducted a meditation and healing ceremony. He was a unique person radiating infectious happiness, peace and love. He gave all three of us healing and such was our enjoyment we were loath to leave this magical place and return to the normal world.

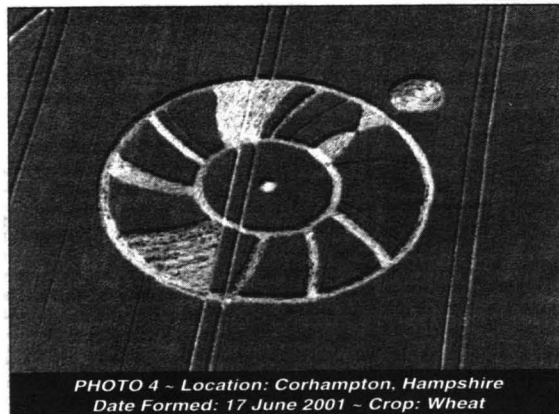


PHOTO 4 - Location: Corhampton, Hampshire
Date Formed: 17 June 2001 - Crop: Wheat

A short while before our Corhampton visit, Colette Ardagh had broken her collar bone and was still having regular physiotherapy treatment. Whilst in the field I had asked everyone to collect a few stones as markers, without thinking that Colette might have a problem. To her amazement she was able to stretch out her damaged shoulder quite easily. A few days later she attended her physiotherapy appointment; her regular physio was on holiday, so she was seen by a replacement physio who on examining her shoulder looked puzzled and asked Colette if she had really broken her collar bone as the usual bump (there for life) marking where the bone mends was not present! The physio was astonished as she had never seen this effect before. David Ardagh who suffered from a bad back, also noted a definite subsequent improvement.

I could not sleep, the energy was so great

One of the first formations in Wiltshire for which I gained permission to visit, was situated beyond the Gallops at Beckhampton, close to a tumulus containing an ancient standing stone. (photo 5)

I was taking a group of crop circle enthusiasts from London on a crop circle visit and this was the event I had chosen. It was a long walk across the Gallops and I was concerned about an enterprising 80 year old woman who had had her hip replaced some years ago. As we were walking down the slope away from the road, she remarked that it was a pity that it would be uphill going back. On entering the lovely spiral, I suggested as always that people should find 'their' spot and for those who could not, I used a pendulum to obtain the answer. The view was magnificent with Silbury Hill in the background, benignly majestic against the skyline. We must have been in the formation for about 40 minutes when I suddenly smelt rain on the air and decided it was time to leave as it was quite a considerable walk back to the coach. I was particularly concerned about the gallant 80 year old but I need not have been as to my amazement she strode out with such pace and vigour that despite being a fast walker, I could not keep up with her! As we got back to the coach the heavens opened violently leading to severe flash flooding. Several people kindly sent me in reports of their experiences that day. It appeared to have had beneficial effects although Krysta Morgan's account was mixed "As soon as I entered the circle, I felt as though something plugged into the back of my head and I felt energised. When I went to sleep that night there was a tingy energy running through my body that lasted all night and it was so strong it kept waking me. It was slightly frightening. I was aware of it all night and it felt as though it was cleansing my body and clearing out old patterns."

Diane McAnulla who suffers from pelvic pain and anaemia

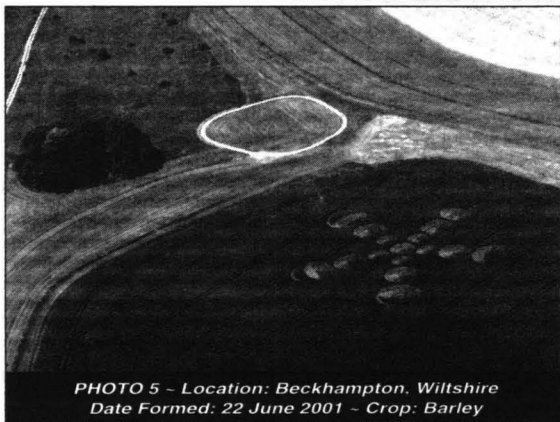


PHOTO 5 - Location: Beckhampton, Wiltshire
Date Formed: 22 June 2001 - Crop: Barley

reported feeling "a great sense of peace and timelessness and not wanting to leave. My mental worries about my health disappeared during that period. When I got home that evening, my black Labrador was very excited about seeing me - more so than usual. He wanted to be near me and lick my face; this lasted for a good hour or so."

We know that animals are sensitive to unseen energies and it would seem that Judith was carrying some residual crop circle energy sensed by her dog.

Green Concrete

Judith Kreiger from Colorado wrote saying "On entering the circle and walking slowly through it's components, I had a sense of all stress draining away. Eventually I sat cross legged and watched the "eye art" behind my closed lids with a giddy and silly feeling. I had an unusual desire to stay that way for a long time."

However all was not well with Judith, for about 10 days later she detected skin lesions "on my left bottom cheek and upper thigh, the parts of me that would have been in closest contact with the crop and the ground. Ultimately there were areas of eruption, some about the size of a 50p piece with 8-10 blisters and one area was a 2" oval with about a dozen blisters, very raised. They did not hurt initially, but after a few days, they burned strongly". Judith treated the blisters with a herbal remedy which relieved the burning enough for her to tolerate. At the date of her writing, some 4 weeks later, she reports that the lesions "are still in evidence, but healing and fading."

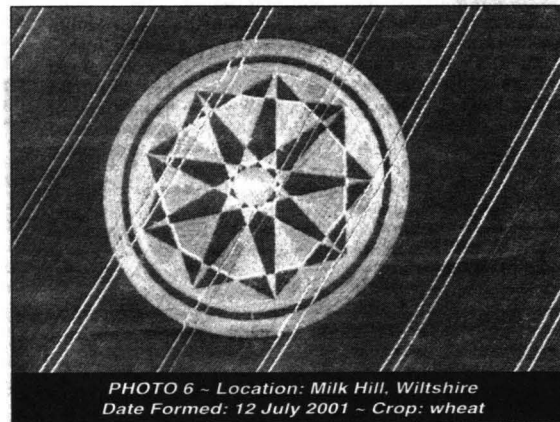


PHOTO 6 - Location: Milk Hill, Wiltshire
Date Formed: 12 July 2001 - Crop: wheat

Judith suggests that she was allergic to something that had been applied to the crop. This would possibly confirm a report sent to me by someone who had visited the first Milk Hill formation beneath the White Horse (12 July 2001) (photo 6):

(continued on page 8)

(continued from page 7 - PSYCHIC NEWS.
Stansted, Essex, England - Nov. 10, 2001)

"Several years ago I decided that modern agriculture was not for me and since that time have strived to allow my farm to once again be a haven for wildlife, by planting trees and wildflower meadows and crops such as linseed as a winter food crop for resident birds and much of the land is under the Stewardship Scheme.

My first impression of the field was how 'clean' it was... a clean field to a farmer is basically one in which nothing else is alive except the planted crop.

It was very obvious to me that the bird life was absent... skylarks were singing high up but the only other birds were around the margins or on the hillside behind.

The only insects I heard or saw in the crop were a few scavenging black and a couple of transient hoverflies.

The crop was virtually weed-free, a few annual weeds such as Scarlet Pimpernel and Heartsease were struggling at ground level.

The margins had been planted with natives (as per stewardship agreements) but had been topped to prevent flowering and so contamination of the crop.

The tramlines were crisp and well used.
To me the whole field was what I think of as green concrete... (totally lifeless).

I was uncomfortable about going into the crop and received no impressions at all until I had been in the centre for a while and suddenly started to get a familiar taste in my mouth... it was the 'metallic' dry taste I have experienced from using any Glyphosate weedkiller... it is very distinctive. In my business I do use selective weedkillers (never herbicides)... The taste and the onset of a headache suddenly triggered the memory of your talk and all the physical symptoms (and even psychological ones) you mentioned.

At home today I looked at the contra-indications on the reverse of the 'Gallup' container... (this is one of the least environmentally harmful herbicides)... briefly it says that exposure can lead to dizziness, nausea, vomiting, blistering of the skin, minor conjunctivitis, tightening of the chest etc etc.

I suspect that the young wheat in that field had already had a potent mix of a whole range of herbicides, insecticides and fungicides sprayed upon it, with a lot more to go."

This worrying and intriguing report could offer possible explanations to both the much-reported 'metallic taste' syndrome, and the lesions and rashes suffered by many when sitting in a crop formation.

SUN HERALD, Melbourne, Australia - Dec. 4, 2001 CR: P. Norman

US experts to check UFO film

By MARK DUNN

VIDEO footage of mysterious lights in the Pakenham sky have been sent to the US and Europe to be analysed by flight and UFO researchers.

David Farthing, 56, a Pakenham chef, caught the 2½-minute event on a home video camera on July 28.

"I was sceptical initially," he said.

Mr Farthing first saw the objects about 10pm

from his bedroom window, before he and his wife moved outside with a video camera.

"It was a yellowy-red fireball, I thought it was a meteorite," he said.

But as the object oscillated in the sky and appeared at times to be stationary before being joined by other lights, Mr Farthing said he became

convinced it was not a meteorite.

"In the distance it looked enlarged on the horizon," he said.

"As I started to film it, it moved quite quickly.

"What I found interesting was that it was pulsating and seemed to change pattern or colour.

"It was fascinating and I have no explanation.

"In my heart I can't say it was man-made."

Paul Norman, of the Victorian UFO Research Society, said the video was the first of its type to capture an event where lights appeared to be moving in unison.

"The video may be able to show the nature of the lights," Mr Norman said.

Cases where larger objects were seen operating with smaller objects are the best evidence of intelligent control, he said.

SIDMOUTH HERALD, Honiton, Devon, England
Aug. 10, 2001

Flying saucer sitings doubted by Sidmouth Police Station

A SERIES of bizarre-coloured moving lights seen in fields near Sidmouth over the last few evenings are not a flying saucer but lights from camp sites and extra evening events connected with the festival.

That's the word from Sidmouth Police Station. Several *Herald* readers had reported seeing very

above the A3052 this week, but police say they are from the two marquees in the area where late night events that might include laser effects are being held, or, alternatively, they could be from the Bulverton camp site.

The movement of the lights could be caused by wind blowing the wires, a police spokeswoman said.

CHRONICLE, Hampshire, England - Oct. 26, 2001 CR: S. Gerrard

Decade of searching the skies for UFO truth

The Southampton UFO Group has been watching the sky for 10 years and its members still think the truth is out there.

"Space is like a sandy beach and every grain of sand a planet. It's naive to think that other life couldn't be out there," said Steve Gerrard, who started the group in 1991 having read a book called *The Flying Saucers Have Landed*.

At the tenth anniversary event tomorrow (Saturday), there will be various speakers and footage of UFOs, including Hampshire incidents.

"What looks like four or five orbs of golden lights joined together can be seen

flying over Southampton Water" said Mr Gerrard. Guest speaker will be renowned author, Timothy Good.

Captain David Sheppard, a British Airways pilot will also be giving an account of his

numerous UFO experiences.

The anniversary celebrations will be at the Peartree Church Hall, Southampton on October 27th, starting at 10 am.

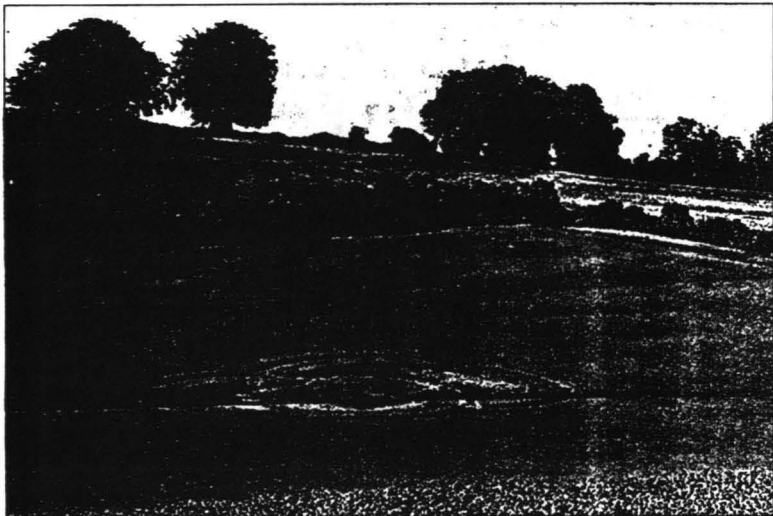
For more information, visit www.sufog.freereserve.co.uk.

Airport UFO stages a 20-minute light show

SUNDAY INDEPENDENT, Southampton, England - Sept. 9, 2001 CR: S. Gerrard

SEVENOAKS CHRONICLE, Kent, England - Aug. 25, 2001

DANI DIAPER 14432/20A



ALIEN ART?: Was it little green men, magnetic fields or a man with a mower which caused a crop circle to appear in Shoreham this week? Jill Hawkins was out driving on Sunday when

she spotted the phenomenon in a field next to Cattle Farm Road. She said: "It looked amazing." The circle has interlinked rings and is about 50m long and 30m wide.

A SOUTHAMPTON man is convinced UFOs exist after watching one over Southampton airport.

Dennis Randell, 54, from Chilcomb Road, Harefield, was in his kitchen, when glancing out of the window, he saw what he describes as a bright silver ball over the nearby airport.

Dennis and his friend Gary Pinder, rushed outside to get a better look, and watched the shape for 20 minutes, before it vanished.

He said: "I saw this bright silver light hovering over the airport moving from left to right and back again. I was looking through the kitchen window at about 11.15pm, when Gary and I first saw it, and we watched it for quite a long time before it disappeared.

"It looked just like a big silver ball, and was glowing, though we couldn't hear any noises from it. And then it vanished. The lights on it just went out and it was gone."

He is not the first person to have seen something strange over the region. Ernie Sears, head of the Southampton UFO Group said: "There's certainly been an increase in sightings recently.

"About a month ago, I and a friend saw two UFOs over Southampton Water, and another member saw something peculiar over North Baddesley the Monday before last."

The duty manager at Southampton Airport said: "We have no record of any UFOs. If we did see something out of the ordinary, the first thing we'd do is check the radar to make sure that what we thought we'd seen, was actually there. If it was, then we'd alert the appropriate authorities immediately."

Saucer spotters are on lookout

UFO buffs in South Cumbria should be out in their gardens this month spotting mysterious objects, experts have said.

Sharon Larkin said the summer months are the best time to spot UFOs flying in the Cumbrian skies.

Ms Larkin, who is the investigations and administration spokeswoman of Cumbria UFO Research and Investigation, wants to encourage people to take advantage of the recent good weather by searching the skies.

She said: "Everybody thinks we only see UFOs at night time, but we actually can see them clearly during the day, especially when the sky is clear from clouds."

She claims she spotted an unidentified silver object hovering in the sky last week while she was out enjoying the sun.

She said: "I spotted an odd-shaped craft, which was white or silver in colour and looked your usual disc with a dome on top."

She said that the sighting lasted for about one minute before it was obscured by clouds.

Ms Larkin is also investigating other sightings reported to her this summer by shocked Cumbrians.

These include two witnesses who saw a yellow light moving vertically in the sky south of Calbeck.

The light on the horizon stayed in the same area of the sky for one hour, moving up and down silently.

Two days later, a man driving home from work said he saw a large black triangular craft over Moota.

The craft was hovering over a field, with three white lights and one red light.

Ms Larkin wrote to the Ministry of Defence about the incident who replied that it could not justify spending public funds on investigating the incident.

She has recently featured in a new television show talking about her interest in UFOs and investigations of local sightings.

She has attracted considerable attention, both nationally and internationally, with her claims that West Cumbria is a hotbed of UFO activity.

Ms Larkin, 27, was selected by satellite channel BBC Choice to take part in its series, *Rush*, which looks at the quirky offbeat and sometimes wacky stories of people living along the coast of Britain and Ireland.

She was filmed for the show at various locations around the Cumbrian coast.

You want farm diversification? How about crop circles?

By NORM PARK
for Agri-news

Randy Johner might have been able to provide a boost to his normal farming income last week if he had been able to set up a toll booth to sell tickets to his farmland located a few miles north of Midale.

Johner's land was inundated with a steady flow of curiosity seekers, members of the media and researchers after a series of crop circles were discovered in his durum crop a few days before it was destined to be harvested.

This strange phenomenon that sees strong, well balanced stalks of grain suddenly fall down into well designed concentric circles or other designs, has been the fodder for countless suppositions and living room discussions for years. There are still no firm answers.

Crop circles are not just unique to Saskatchewan farmland. European farms have been subjected to them for decades, some of them quite elaborate in design, according to Paul Anderson, director of the Canadian Crop Circle Research Network who was in the Midale area last week doing an intense study on the Johner land.

Johner said he retains a healthy skepticism surrounding the strange behaviour of a crop that simply



Randy Johner and Paul Anderson of the Canadian Crop Circle Research Network scrutinize the most recent crop circle find in Johner's field.

slides into a wonderful pattern that appears graphically perfect when viewed from the air.

Anderson shares Johner's views in many respects because, as he noted, many crop circles, when studied carefully, are found out to be simple instances of human tinkering for the purposes of fraud or simply as a late night joke.

"Some can be explained quickly as human frauds, some we can at-

tempt to explain because of weather or other conditions and others ... well, we simply can't explain them," said Anderson.

The Vancouver based graphic artist/writer said he became interested in crop circles years ago because so many of their designs were intriguing to someone in his profession. The interest just grew.

Deborah Warren, also from Vancouver, who has just completed her mas-

ter's degree in education, accompanied Anderson. She said she has held an interest in crop circles for a long time and didn't want to pass up the opportunity to see a Saskatchewan crop circle up close, and the timing was right for her to make the trip.

There isn't a lot of funding support available for people like Anderson, so he said sometimes the desire to take a very detailed, scientific look at

circles simply becomes cost prohibitive.

Johner, on the other hand, said he won't speculate. His land was the site of a crop circle a couple of summers ago too, not far from where the current circles are located.

"One advantage to being the landowner is that I know for a fact I didn't make them," he said with a chuckle, noting that when he checked his land on Sunday and

Monday, there was no sign of any crop circles, but there they were on Tuesday morning, August 28. That meant something had to have happened Monday night.

The circles are located a few yards off the grid/farm roads used for access by trucks and other equipment and they are difficult to spot.

Television crews

were given an opportunity to pay the first visit to the circles before they were touched by Anderson and Warren or anyone else.

Two years ago, Johner said he discovered the first crop circle on his land as he combined late into the night.

"When you come across it, at midnight on top of your combine, it can be a bit exciting, maybe even weird," he said.

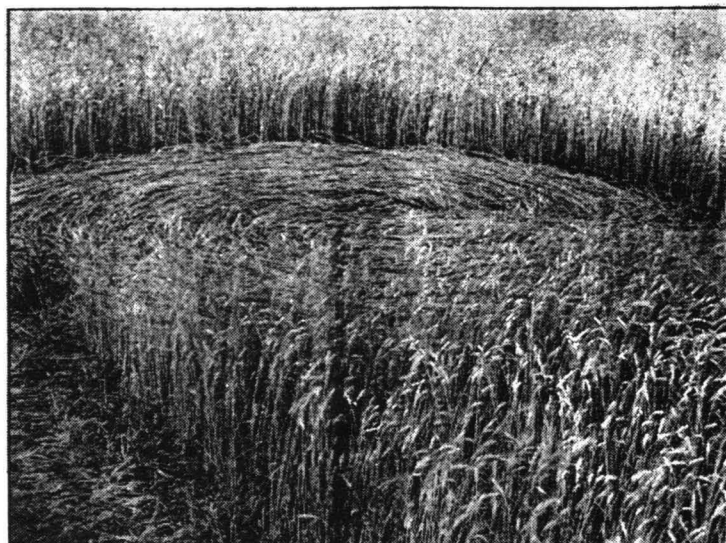
Johner said he has done some research into crop circles for obvious reasons and he said he has discounted some of the European circles as being hoaxes because pranksters would be able to access a field using the farm equipment tram lines (usually tracks left by sprayers). That would mean that humans could access a field without leaving any recognizable footprints or other tracks. He said two years ago, he would have used the same reasoning for his crop circles because his equipment had left tram lines as well, but this year, he hadn't sprayed and there were no discernable footprints or other tracks leading

into the field. He agreed that this year's circles were a little less intriguing than the ones two years ago. This pattern indicated more broken nodules, whereas two years ago, the dropped crop stems appeared to be almost interwoven as they fell into a neat circular pattern.

Johner said there was no major damage done to the dropped crop but he said he finds it very, very curious that the germination rate in the heads of durum that were dropped was just around five per cent, whereas the average germination in the heads of the standing crop right next to the circles is around 95 per cent.

"We're talking about a mature crop here, so that does strike me as being really strange," Johner said.

Anderson agrees. He said because of the lack of funding, it is difficult to carry out intensive research on the soil since the scientific protocol would require soil sampling under controlled conditions for more than a day of collection and then follow up research. He said the Crop Circle Network receives some funding support from the



A look at the most recent crop circle configuration in the Randy Johner field near Midale.

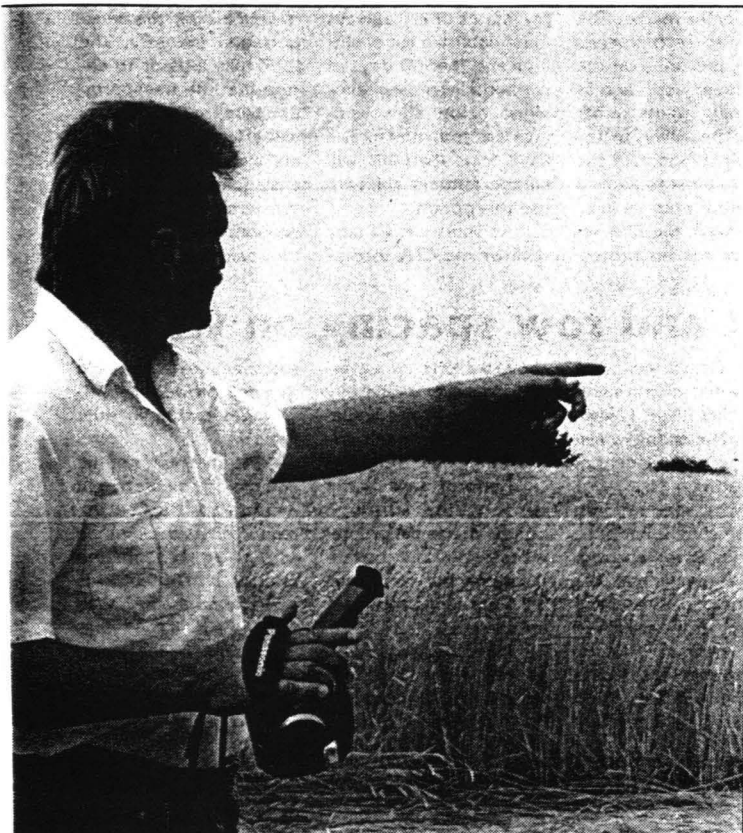
Rockefeller Foundation.

"There are all kinds of crop circles to be studied and several kinds in Saskatchewan," said Anderson.

"I try not to guess too much and

keep an open mind about the subject, but let's face it, we've all had experiences in our lives we just can't explain."

(continued on page 10)



Randy Johner, standing in the most recent crop circle, points to an area of his field where crop circles were discovered two years ago.

Anderson said he finds it interesting to try to determine whether a crop circle is genuine or fake. "And there's both going on. Some are so obviously human made, you don't bother with them but I've found that usually the circles in Saskatchewan are different. They are not as complex as the European ones, at least the unexplained European ones," he said.

Anderson went on to say that he likes studying the Saskatchewan circles because they are intriguing and "if they are being done as pranks, the question is why? It's not impossible, but why, what's the point? Especially when you see them well out into the field. With no tracks going out to them, you begin to wonder because they probably won't even be seen unless someone flies over them. Who would access them other than by helicopter or sky divers?" he said with a smile.

"So obviously the mystery remains," he said.

Johner said he was interested in comparing the damage to the crops on his land as he looked at this year's durum in the crop circle compared with the durum crop of two years ago.

"This year's crop was more badly damaged, nodules were broken. Two years ago, the crop was woven and still in good condition." But as far as

quality is concerned, he didn't think there was much difference in actual loss.

Warren and others assisting Anderson last week measured the diameter of the main circle as being 48 feet, plus two outlying perimeter circles that were almost two feet wide each.

There was also a report of crop circles on the Martinson farm also located near Midale.

Johner said he has heard of crop circles in fields containing all kinds of products from peas to corn so whoever or whatever is making the crop circles isn't just partial to durum.

So while the research team continued its touring and sampling in his field, Johner returned home around noon last Saturday to fire up his combine to get on with the job of harvesting. In the meantime, he said he noted that there was another downed crop configuration in the fields closer to his home, this was in a pattern that looked like a reverse number 7 he said.

"All I know right now is that I have a crop to get off," he said with a laugh, noting that he wasn't bothered much by all the media attention and visitations from curious onlookers. In fact, if any of them knew how to drive a grain truck, maybe ...



Crop circle researchers Paul Anderson and Deborah Warren.

CITIZEN, Prince George, B.C., Canada - Sept. 19, 2001 CR: G. Conway

Crop circles encompass much mystery

Ah, Vanderhoof - a location of mystery. Six new crop circles have set the community abuzz with theories, speculation and skepticism alike.

There are three major schools of thought surrounding the formation of crop circles.

The first set of scenarios centres around finding a natural cause for this phenomenon. Magnetic black holes, geological pressures, wild wind formations are all listed as possible causes for these geometric formations. These possibilities take into account the myriad of natural forces that humans are nowhere close to figuring out. Some, such as wind patterns, can be quickly ruled out (wind tends to have difficulty blowing in clockwise and counter-clockwise directions at the same time), but it is a popular set of theories for the scientific-minded.

The second set of theories revolves around the possibility of extra-terrestrial activity. Whatever your thoughts on the possibility of alien intelligence, one might think they had better things to do than plunk patterns of plastered-down produce all over our fields.

The third, and possibly most plausible, set of ponderings revolves around the existence of extremely bored homo sapiens out for a laugh. People certainly have a tendency to do even weirder things when a rural existence doesn't offer up enough thrills - vandalism, graffiti, and cow tipping make even less sense then drawing international attention to our little community.

But perhaps what all these theories encompass is the ever-elusive mystery of the human mind. No matter what you believe to be the cause of this small set of circles, the fact that we are all so drawn to speculate and analyze over their formation speaks volumes about ourselves. The human mind loves the unanswerable. We are compelled to solve and explain, even if only to shout our disbelief from the rooftops.

What do you think? Send your comments via fax (250-567-2070), e-mail (express@hwy16.com) or mail (Box 1007, Vanderhoof, B.C., V0J 3A0). All letters must be signed to be considered for publication, and please include a day-time number where you can be reached for verification.

WE'VE SEEN UFOs



WE'RE BEING WATCHED: Desmond Leslie

Witnesses tell of strange sightings here – since 1947

UFOs, mysterious abductions and bizarre lights in the sky are the sort of things that have made Jerry Springer a multi-millionaire.

But amazingly, when it comes to strange things from outer space, Ireland is getting more than its share of unusual happenings.

A new documentary which is set to raise a number of eyebrows traces UFO sightings from Kerry to Armagh.

Tell Me Captain Strange which is part of RTE's True Lives series tracks the people who have been left wondering if their eyes deceived them – or if they stared aliens in the face.

A bizarre happening in Cahirciveen in Kerry has had natives in Roswell, New Mexico, in a flap since 1947.

Brigid Cecacci of the Roswell UFO museum is convinced that sightings in Kerry were the same as those which locals in Roswell believe was a flying saucer.

"The same objects were seen here as in Ireland. There was a time gap in between but it was the same flying saucer. Days later it was seen over China."

Michael O'Sullivan's father was ridiculed when he claimed he had seen lights in the sky in Cahirciveen on July 10 that year.

By NICOLA TALLANT

"He was looking down the road and he saw a bright light. What he saw was a spaceship and a lot of lights went up into the sky."

Pat Joe O'Neill remembers the lights too: "There was something over the bog. We saw the beams or the lights. It was here and the man that saw it was ridiculed."

Back in Roswell, they did believe it, and the sighting is one of the main studies still underway at the UFO museum.

Followed

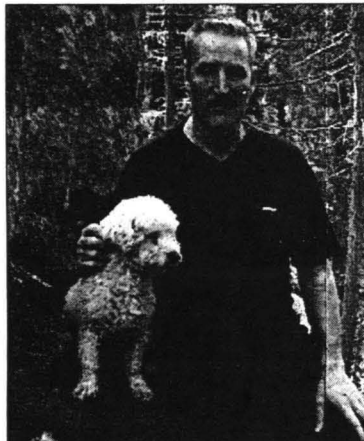
But the UFOs didn't only appear in decades past. A truck driver, who did not want to be named, says he couldn't believe his eyes when he set out on the road to Nenagh one morning and got more than he bargained for.

"Myself and my helper were supplying bakeries at the time. We set out from Limerick early and we were driving along and saw this very bright star."

"We travelled a couple of miles and got to Nenagh. While we were in the town we didn't see it but when we got back on the road it was there again."

"It was as if it kept on my shoulder and followed us along. Then it would shoot off."

"We were a mile outside Roscrea when it suddenly appeared to be on a collision course with us. It



DOUBLE: Lawrence and his dog were abducted

hovered in front of the truck and forced me to stop. It was blocking the road. We couldn't drive on or turn around because the road was too narrow.

"It was frightening. It was for a good 30 seconds and then it took off again at a nice and easy pace. It went through the sky into its own position and hovered about 400 yards away."

"When I finished work I picked up the Evening Press and on the front page was the story of a showband from Donegal who were driving home had encountered the same thing. They said it was the worst experience of their lives."

Tadhg Kilcummins, a mental health nurse from Roscommon, claims he was one of three witnesses to see a craft hovering over his house.

But he says when dealing with patients who have had similar encounters that he never dares

to admit his own. Desmond Leslie who lives at Castle Leslie in Co Monaghan and author of 'Flying Saucers Have Landed' says he believes that aliens are constantly watching us.

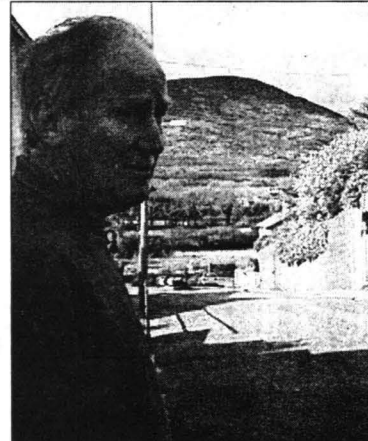
"They possible invented us by cross breeding and they have always been there," he said. "The present abductions that we hear about strike me that they are currently creating a new cross breed."

Abducted

Lawrence J. Downey from Belfast claims he has been abducted four times on the Tyrone and Monaghan border. "The first time I was walking my dog Lobo when I was engulfed by this white light," he says.

"I looked up and I was in a craft. People about 5ft tall were hovering above the ground. I asked them if I was going to be safe."

"They answered me in my own



MEMORY: Michael O'Sullivan's dad saw UFO

voice and told me I was safe.

"They were looking at Lobo too and appeared to be communicating with him."

"The next thing I remember I was back at the jeep and the white light evaporated."

"After that I went back because it was such a positive experience. I went back to the same spot and I saw lights in the sky and ran into the trees."

"The fourth time it happened I ran towards the lights and I was taken up to the ship again. This time I remember nothing and only woke up three days later. After that I decided not to mess with it again."

The programme also screens an interview with a schoolgirl who saw a giant craft outside her dormitory window in the 1980s and a man who speaks for the first time in 62 years about the craft that landed in front of him when he was a child.

New Ilkley Moor mysteries uncovered by Nigel Mortimer

THE last year regarding active ufology in the Ilkley Moor region, has been a relatively quiet one, mainly due to the foot and mouth epidemic. This has reflected the sudden downfall in reported sightings. 2574

So, in this time, I have been taking time out from current investigations to undertake research into the Ufological history of the area. Having done so, I am amazed at some of the information gleaned – which seems to back-up much of what we already know. Readers will be aware of the meeting I had with 1980s pop-idol Toyah a couple of years ago, when we worked on TV's Heaven and Earth Show, and her interest in the Ilkley Moor UFO enigma.

It was at that time, I was given a small manuscript by my co-presenter and local mysteries writer, Marie Campbell, in which there were several mentions of a place called the 'Land Of The Dragon'.

Within the pages of this small pamphlet which had been written in the late 1970s, I learned how the Ilkley Moor region had been a focus for early 15th Century monks, who, having gained occult information on the East Coast at Drax, headed for Ilkley Moor – a place 'with significant special energies'.

They kept the actual location of the moors a secret amongst themselves, but did lay down (in the original manuscript) clues in the form of a map, as to where this 'special' place was located. Indeed, they make several



The Swastika Stones on Ilkley Moor

references to the 'Swastika Moors', and locate it between Skipton Castle and Baildon Hill, Keighley and Ilkley; in other words, Rombalds Moor.

In modern Earth Mysteries studies, it is interesting to note that Dragon Energies depict the unseen 'earth energies' which are said to run along Ley Lines and Ancient Sites, of which there are many on Ilkley Moor. So, it would be of no great surprise for the early monks of Drax (which itself derives from a 'dragon' terminology) to call Ilkley's moorlands, the Land Of The Dragon! It can be established that many of the recent UFO reports of nocturnal lights seen around Ilkley and Wharfedale, have connections with the Standing Stones and other sites associated with these unseen energy lines, and again, it is interesting to note how locals of the pre-Victorian era described strange lights as 'firey

dragons' and such-like.

Does this indicate that there was a hidden knowledge about the Ilkley Moor area, known to the monks of Drax Priory in early times? Maybe this is the reasoning behind why a dragon is used in the House of Cliffords coat of arms (as observed at Skipton and Keighley) or maybe why the 'swastika' motif is incorporated within the footstone structure of Bolton Abbey – another place linked with the Land Of The Dragon mystery?

A swastika design, exactly the same as the one found on Ilkley Moor was given by so-called Venusians to world-famous UFO contactee, George Adamski, in the California deserts during his encounters in the 1950's. It was indicated to him, by his 'friends from outer-space' that the swastika emblem gave clues to how UFO's operate, and it is claimed that South African scientists actually developed a 'self-propelling motor' by utilising the design – although this was never proven to outsiders.

Maybe, by using occult methods, the Drax monks, and their subsequent followers, intended to work upon the Swastika carving on Ilkley Moor in a hope to invoke an unseen power at the site? Maybe, today our modern Ufonaughts are doing exactly the same thing, and that is why the moor has become such a focus for so many strange encounters?

Post 'C' files

UFO group appeals for witnesses to a spectacular UFO incident

by Graham Allen of the Staffordshire UFO Group

I begin with a plea for witnesses to one particular event which took place at around 10pm on May 16, 1988 - a night of some note as it was hot (70s F), dry and particularly clear with no cloud, unusual for that time in May.

At around 9.55pm two bright lights had been witnessed and recorded officially descending from high level to around 1,000ft above the Chase between Cannock and Rugeley heading in a north westerly direction toward Stafford.

The lights were all the more conspicuous for their antics of tumbling over each other as they travelled on a steady plane across the Cannock Chase. Their were scores of witnesses who described the objects as

being triangular (isosceles) or wedge shaped which travelled silently through the, albeit busy, skies of Staffordshire.

They had bright white lights on all three angles of the craft and several more lights beneath the craft, giving the appearance of 'flying Christmas trees' and without the normal red and green lights of aviation air traffic.

The triangular craft approached and skirted the edge of Stafford performing a 'U' turn (northward) over the area of GEC and heading back east and down toward Rugeley.

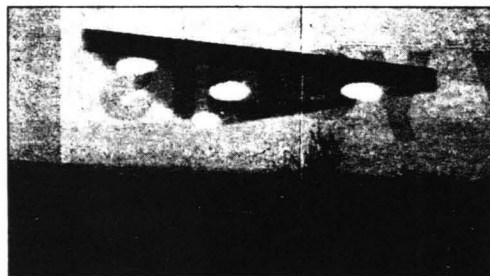
More witnesses reported the craft in and around Rugeley with the same degree of accuracy as those witnesses of Cannock and Stafford. The reports were of two triangular craft travelling silently and in close formation over Rugeley and

Visitors light up a spring night

away over East Staffordshire.

Police stations within Staffordshire and the West Midlands received numerous reports from members of the public with bizarre accounts of these two objects appearing and disappearing and at times hovering motionless over houses and gardens. Many reliable witnesses including police, military and members of the public witnessed the craft and the incident was raised in the House of Commons by the then MP for Stafford Bill Cash following concerns raised by the electorate. The response from the then Defence Minister Roger Freeman was one of busy air traffic into Birmingham Airport which Bill Cash described as 'ludicrous'.

From the follow-on investigation that was conducted, Bill Cash's comment was well founded as the air traf-



■ Aliens over Cannock Chase?

fic corridor over Staffordshire runs North/South and these two craft crossed the air traffic lane not once but twice, a very dangerous manoeuvre considering that there was busy air traffic at that time.

Staffordshire UFO Group is revisiting this particular case and those around that time that made up what was

called the 'Staffordshire UFO Flap'. We would like to hear from witnesses of the events of May 16 with a view to acquiring eyewitness testimony that might be used in a spectacular special effects video based on Staffordshire sightings.

Witnesses can contact me (Graham Allen) direct by telephone on 01889 585149

or by writing to me at 132 Green Lane, Etching Hill, Rugeley, Staffs WS15 2AU.

Alternatively, I can be contacted via our website at www.sufog.co.uk

You can also write to Mike Lockley at the Chase Post.

Witnesses were not just confined to Cannock and Stafford, they are also known to be located in Dudley, Wombourne and Penkridge where the first reports exist prior to the objects descending over Cannock Chase.

■ As the Red Rose Theatre is closing the Staffordshire UFO Group will be arranging a new venue for their meeting on October 18 and beyond. Details will be posted on their website.

The next speaker will be Grant Allen, MPhys (Hons) AMImSTP, who will present a talk on the possibilities of alien life and propulsion physics.

Many reliable witnesses including police, military and members of the public witnessed the craft and the incident was raised in the House of Commons

SALFORD ADVERTISER, Manchester, England - Sept. 6, 2001

IS IT A BIRD, IS IT A PLANE? NO, ITS A 350MPH SPACECRAFT IN WALKDEN

UFO-spotters keep eyes on the skies

by Marc Iles

STARGAZER Thomas Gerbicz made an eerie discovery in the skies that was quite literally out of this world.

While playing with his cousins Chloe and Sam, eight-year-old Thomas spotted a mysterious object hovering above Brindley Street, near his Walkden home.

On closer inspection with his trusty telescope, Thomas reckoned he had a bona-fide UFO on his hands.

He sat down with his co-astronomers and immediately scribbled a secret letter to *The Advertiser*, telling us of the extra-terrestrial find.

The note described how the mysterious object, travelling at what young Thomas reckoned was at least 350 mph, had red lights and a yellow plate in the middle of two half-spheres. It had a red door and silver top and was travelling downwards to Parr Fold Park and after 10 minutes it flashed and mysteriously disappeared, in Thomas's own words 'leaving the skies of the earth'.

Young Thomas even scrawled a quick artist's impression of the spacecraft on the back of his letter to make sure we knew exactly what he meant.

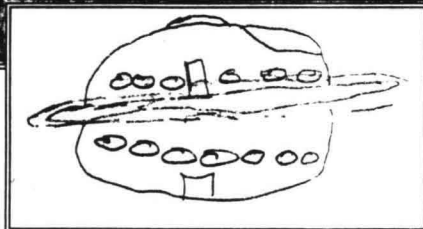
Thomas' mum Debbie was not surprised the curious youngster had rushed to the local press with his discovery. She told us: "He's very scientific, and he loves his facts and figures."

Thomas agreed to keep an eye on the skies for *The Advertiser* in the future - just in case Walkden shows any signs of becoming the new Roswell.



ABOVE: (l-r) Chloe Britton, 7, Sam Britton, 8, and Thomas Gerbicz, 8, keep an eye in the sky for UFOs

RIGHT: Thomas's drawing of the flying object he believes he saw cruising above Walkden.



Witness to UFO sought

WITNESSES who saw UFOs in Staffordshire more than 10 years ago are being asked to recall their experiences for a documentary video.

Graham Allen, coordinator of Staffordshire UFO Group, is to reinvestigate UFO sightings reported to the Newsletter and other organisations following a wave of activity in 1988 and 1989.

He is inviting anyone who witnessed the alleged sightings to contact him, and is interested in one event in particular.

On the hot, dry, clear evening of May 16, 1988, at around 9.55pm, scores of people saw two triangular objects, looking like flying Christmas trees with bright white lights, descending from a high level to around 1,000ft and tumbling over each other above Cannock Chase.

During the course of their silent flight, they crossed a busy air traffic corridor twice and were officially recorded by police and air traffic control.

Many reliable witnesses, including the police and military, witnessed the two objects appearing, disappearing and at times hovering motionless over houses around Stafford, Rugeley and Cannock.

What became known as the Staffordshire UFO Flap was raised in the House of Commons by then MP for Stafford Bill Cash. He dismissed as "ludicrous" then defence minister Roger Freeman's explanation of busy air traffic into Birmingham Airport.

Witnesses can contact Graham Allen on 01889 585149 or via the Staffordshire group's website at www.sufog.co.uk.

Corny hobby keeps Mike in circulation

THE SUN rose slowly over the misty wheat fields of Hampshire on a summer's day in 1998.

But amid the hundreds of patchwork acres, one innocuous field was under close scrutiny.

It was surrounded by sensors, tripwires and infra-red cameras, put there by a team of investigators who had lain in wait all night.

At the height of the crop circle season, they were hoping to witness the creation of one of the giant ornate patterns.

But, upon waking, their instruments remained silent whilst an intricate crop circle sat in an adjacent field.

"It's one of those times," said Mike Jones, "when it feels like someone's taking the mickey."

Every year, more than 200 crop circles appear in fields throughout Wiltshire, Hampshire and Sussex.

And for more than a decade, when Mike isn't living in Smallbridge he's been investigating them, although not always with success.

The home he shares with his wife, Pat, is decorated with aerial photos of the beautiful and complex patterns, which he says have become more and more detailed since the late 1980s.

Although Mike has never experienced anything himself, it has not quelled his interest. He said: "We don't get many up here but I'm still fascinated by them."

"Aside from a feeling of awe I never felt anything while standing inside one and during the incident in Hampshire we didn't hear or see a thing."

"You begin to think there's some sort of intelligence behind it, though it's got a real sense of humour."

Already a UFO expert, Mike became interested in crop circles when he heard of the strange airborne lights that often appear after formations, though he received a frosty reception.

He said: "Crop circle people were wary of us UFO folks because they thought we were crackers and didn't want to be associated with us."

"It seemed like a diversion from the serious business of UFOs, but I then realised it was a natural extension of what I was doing because of these lights."

"If something was happening in the air then it was in my patch."

With a reputation as an objective investigator, Mike was asked to take part in his first investigation in 1988 and is now a member of the Centre for Crop Circle Studies in Kent.

Investigations almost came to an end in 1991, when a tabloid newspaper produced two men who claimed they made the crop circle with rope and a wooden plank.

One of Mike's fellow investigators was then publicly humiliated when a group of sceptics fooled him with a quick glance of a photo of a man-made pattern.

Mike shrugs off claims of fakery, citing the incredibly complex patterns in wheat, which comes almost to shoulder height.

Between



Michael Molcher meets a man with his head firmly in the clouds

the Lines

"Over time we've realised that, firstly, a lot of them can't be done without an aerial view of the site because they're just too complicated."

"The second is that we know that the crop is affected by some sort of heat or microwaves, which literally takes the stiffness out of it."

"You do get fakes, but they're relatively easy to spot."

Mike now spends summer weekends in the south of England, hunting for clues as to the origin of crop circles.

But he claims they may not be as alien to Rochdale as you might think and is appealing for information about what he calls 'ripening lightning'.

Mike said: "Ripening lightning is supposed to be an old Lancashire expression and could have something to do with the strange balls of light seen before and after formations, particularly at harvesting."

"Crop circles aren't actually a new thing and our great-grandparents could have taken them for granted."

But despite the seriousness of Mike's search, people still love the idea of little green men invading the countryside.

Mike said: "Nobody I know would seriously suggest they're caused by spacecraft landing."

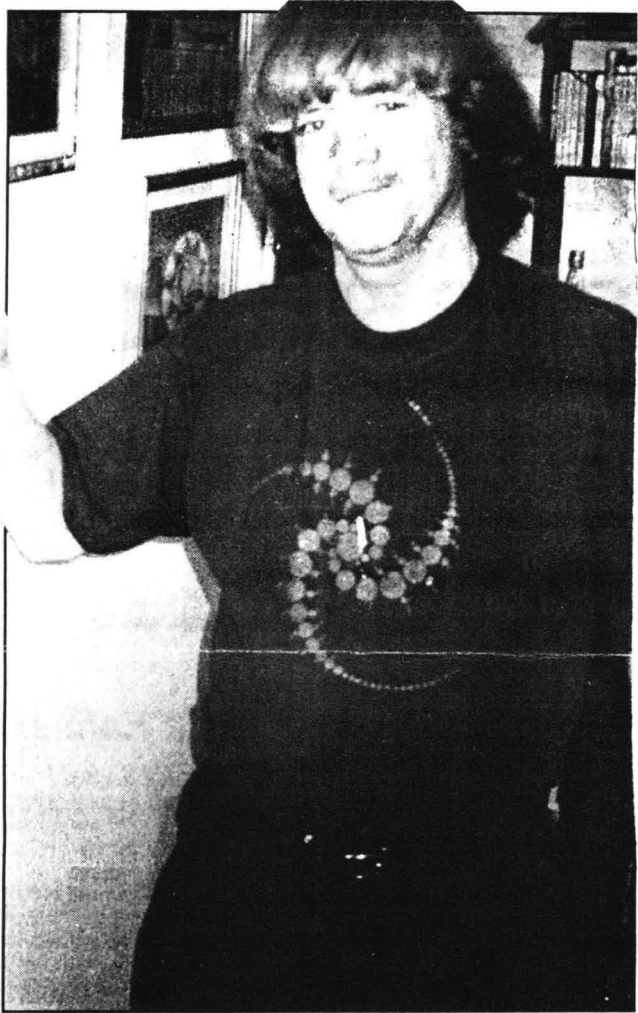
"But, with reluctance, I'd say it's looking more likely that the energy is earth-bound but the intelligence isn't."

"It may well be that some extra-terrestrial intelligence is using the energy of the Earth to form the patterns."

It would be easy to write off Mike's claims as fantasy, but he says his passion is more than just a hobby, it's a way of looking at the world.

"We're going through a big change and perhaps people will start realising there's more to life than earning money."

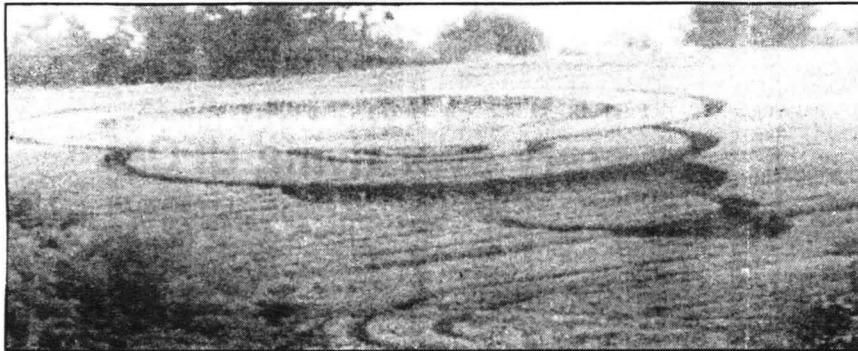
"These circles appear in broad daylight and when you see them, they really do put everything into perspective."



THERE'S somebody out there. Mike has been investigating crop circles for more than a decade. 44ED02-01



NOT the work of little green men ... Mike and Pam show off some of the hundreds of crop circle photos in their albums. 44ED01-01



WHAT'S the story? A crop circle that Mike investigated after it appeared in a field near the M65 at Burnley.

EASTERN DAILY PRESS, Norfolk, England - Aug. 31, 2001

Still unidentified

The truth is out there. But are we any closer to it now that the Ministry of Defence has opened one of its real-life X-files on the alleged sighting of a UFO in Rendlesham Forest, near Woodbridge, in 1980? No, we are not.

What we do now know is that the MoD and the United States Air Force did take reports of the incident seriously, and that they both began full inquiries into what happened.

But what conclusions did they reach? Did they actually find anything to support the idea that a UFO was taking a close look at the Woodbridge and Bentwaters air bases? We still don't know, and a number of other official files on the subject remain closed on grounds of national security and the wish to keep advice to ministers confidential.

The continuing secrecy encourages those who suspect that there was something sinister which the authorities still wish to hide - possibly a UFO or perhaps a military incident originating in the old Soviet Union.

Don't expect much more to be revealed in 2010 under the 30-year rule. The probability is that we shall never find out. As fans of Mulder and Scully are well aware that is part of the lure.

ISLE OF MAN EXAMINER, Douglas, Isle of Man - Nov. 6, 2001

UFO Magazine accuses police of secrecy over Snaefell incident

Drone crashed into mast — claim

By NEIL NICOL

THE mysterious tale of what crashed into a communication mast on Snaefell peak in January has resurfaced with claims of fresh evidence.

A major search was launched on January 14 when reports came in that an object had hit the mast in a cloud of black smoke.

After a two-day search of the mountainside the authorities found nothing and offered the explanation that it was probably a bird or model plane.

Graham Birdsall, editor of *UFO Magazine*, has followed the story since the time and has never accepted any of the official explanations.

He said: 'The evidence we have gathered together from eye-witness accounts and various reports is that an unmanned drone hit the mast after a technical failure or it lost its course.'

'At first we were led to believe that the drone was one of two that had taken off from a base in northern England but we've now established that it is more likely to be from the RAF base on the Mull of Kintyre.'

Mr Birdsall has spoken to many people about the event that's shrouded in mystery and believes there are people who know more about what happened but are refusing to talk.

In March the magazine published a four-page spread on the Snaefell crash and quoted one man as saying: 'Whatever was found is now very hush-hush in a small community that usually has its newspapers full of local news.'

'We now have a complete blackout to do with this incident.'

The November issue of the magazine carries another article about the event, saying: 'Police later claim the mystery object was a large bird but one police officer revealed to

'It's nonsense,' says senior police officer

family members he has been told not to talk about the incident.'

Mr Birdsall said: 'I can't reveal any identities but the mother of one of the officers approached us saying her son had been sworn to secrecy over the event.'

'She told us that he was involved in the initial investigation but had suddenly clamped up and said he couldn't talk about it any more.'

'This made us question why there was such secrecy if it was just a bird that hit the mast as we were told.'

Mr Birdsall claims there are several factors which discount the police explanation including eye-witness reports of thick black smoke and measurements of damage showing it to be an object seven yards long.

A spokesman for the Communications Commission which is responsible for the mast said: 'After the incident the mast was inspected and thoroughly checked for damage to see if repairs were needed.'

'We concluded there was very little damage to the mast apart from some general storm damage.'

'The mast itself is covered with individual radio aerials and it would be very easy to notice any signs of something crashing into it.'

Acting Chief Inspector Dave Bell dismissed the claims of police secrecy over the incident.

He said: 'I can quite categorically say that this is nonsense and our search of the area found nothing.'

'It is incorrect to say we have something to hide and I am satisfied that the file on this incident is now closed.'

The man, who does not want to be named, was sitting on a veranda when he saw a triangular light moving across the sky from the east towards the north west.

'Suddenly it stopped, and then it must have accelerated at breakneck speed before disappearing in a pinpoint of light.'

He said he had read about UFOs, but was not someone who went looking for them. He firmly believes what he saw was a UFO, and says it was there for about 15 seconds.

● Did anyone else see it? If so, call the Newsdesk on (01723) 363636.

EVENING NEWS, Scarborough, England - July 5, 2001

Mystery triangle spotted in sky

A NEWBY man is convinced he saw an UFO on Tuesday night while watching for badgers.

And he wants to know if anyone else saw the strange object at about 11.15pm.

Alien life here says author

by Tanya Gupta

IF A spaceship really had landed on The Great Lines in Chatham, the creatures that could have emerged are unlikely to have been little green men.

That is the conclusion of the Medway public who attended a talk in Chatham on Tuesday given by one of the world's leading experts on UFOs.

In fact, after weeks of debate among readers of *Medway Messenger*, a consensus has emerged that Chatham's recent visitation was nothing more than lights reflected from a nightclub.

But that's not to say that aliens from outer space aren't already here.

Timothy Good, author of *Unearthly Disclosure*, which was published this month, spoke at Ottakar's bookshop in Chatham High Street of an ongoing "conflict of interest involving several species".

He said: "Aliens have been coming here for a very long time. It is a matter of official record that UFOs exist."

But there was only one person in his audience who was able to say he was absolutely convinced that there are other life forms in the universe.

James Ellison, 24, a factory worker, of Wilson Road, Rochester, said: "I have always been interested in UFOs. I don't believe this is the only planet where there is life."

Musician Louis Pavlov, 28, of York Road, Rochester, said he was attending the talk as "a healthy sceptic".

He said: "I couldn't say there is definitely life out there, but I think there is something going on. But it isn't little green men in a spaceship, although I would love to believe it."

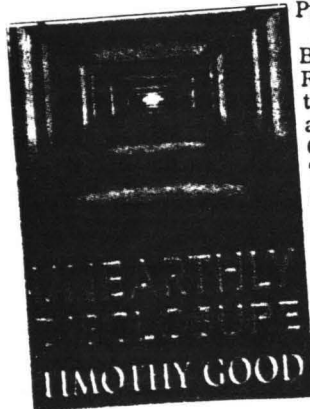
Last month, sightings of bright, circular, blue and orange lights over The Great Lines in Chatham, were attributed to secret Army training experiments or possible flying saucers by the residents who saw them.

There have also been reports in Gillingham of round, bronze objects slowly sailing across the horizon, although not since 1998.

Crop circle enthusiasts said the visitation was due to the strong magnetic ley lines that run between Canterbury and Rochester along the Pilgrim's Way.

But scientist Peter Burt, 39, of Queens Road, Luton, who lectures in biology and attended the talk in Chatham on Tuesday, said: "If a spaceship had really landed, there would have been a lot more to see than just a few lights."

UFOs: The book by Timothy Good



EVENING NEWS, Scarborough, England - July 13, 2001

Mystery over flying UFOs

ANOTHER Scarborough resident is convinced he has seen UFOs in the sky over the town.

Barrie Horwall, of Friars Garden, was going to close the curtains at his home when he saw a light in the

sky over Oliver's Mount.

He then watched three strange sightings. He said he had previously seen UFOs when he worked on a Scottish herring boat.

"They were doing what no aeroplane would do," he said.

MESSINGER, Medway, England - Oct. 19, 2001

Did a UFO crash on the fells back in the Fifties?

By Gazette reporter

CUMBRIAN ufologist Sharon Larkin is investigating a claim that Cumbria had its own Roswell Incident back in 1954.

A sheep farmer, on his deathbed, rang Sharon to share his secret with her. The anonymous caller told Sharon that he farmed at Knott, and that on March 8, 1954, he was out on his farm with his young son. He claimed they saw a UFO crash into Knott Hill.

He revealed that he and his son were immediately taken to Kirkbride Airfield by the military. They were kept there for two weeks while wreckage was removed from the land.

On their release, they were given strict instructions by military officials not to talk to anyone about what they had seen.

Sharon, who is the administrations director of North West Cumbria



● UFO sleuth: "I need to write to the Ministry of Defence," says Sharon Larkin

UFO Research and Investigation, said: "The farmer was only on the phone for two minutes, so I couldn't get an exact location, but I've looked on a map and believe it to be Knott, near Branthwaite, near Workington."

According to Sharon, Kirkbride Airfield was an active military base in the Fifties and it would be logical for the

farmer to be held there.

She said: "It will be really difficult to investigate this because it was so long ago and because I only have sketchy details."

"What I need to do is write to the Ministry of Defence and ask if anything was recovered from that area at that time."

"It's more than likely though that they are

going to say no, but we still have to ask."

Once foot and mouth is over, Sharon plans to visit the area herself and interview the local farmers.

She said: "Although it was a long time ago, farms are passed down from generation to generation, so the story might be known by someone."

Sharon believes the case is similar to the world-famous Roswell Incident in Mexico in 1947, when it was alleged two UFOs crashed into each other. The wreckage was collected by the military, together with four alien bodies.

Many people believe the incident to be true, but that it was covered up by the US government.

North-west Cumbria was already famous for extra terrestrial activity during this period following the Solway Spaceman photograph, taken by Jim Templeton at Burgh Marsh.

EVENING NEWS, Scarborough, England - Oct. 30, 2001

Woman tells of strange blue lights

A WOMAN has told of seeing what she thinks was a UFO which swept up and over Hackness valley last night.

Sue Sargent was driving home at 10.10pm when she says she saw a blue light swoop through the valley and disappear over the other side.

Mrs Sargent, of Wrench Green, Hackness, said: "I was driving home with my husband when we saw this huge royal-blue light swoop up and over the valley."

"It was enormous. I would say larger than an airliner."

"There was no noise at all and it was travelling extremely fast."

"It was visible for only a matter of seconds. I have never seen anything like it before."

She says the strange blue formation also appeared to have some kind of tail streaking behind it and was swooping very low over the hills.

Mrs Sargent said she had seen things such as the Northern Lights and was confident this was nothing like any of those phenomena often spotted in the night sky.

John Harper, president of Scarborough's Astronomical Society, said: "There is a minor shower of shooting stars at the moment but they would not be sufficient to produce this type of bright activity."

"There is nothing in terms of an astronomical phenomenon that we could put this sighting down to."

The sighting is the most recent over the past few weeks around town.

MATLOCK MERCURY, Derbyshire, England - Nov. 8, 2001

UFO sighted on Halloween night

A NERVOUS Winster driver was just seconds away from photographing a UFO on Halloween.

Derek Holmes (66) was driving home from Cromford when he spotted a strange bright light in the sky.

Mr Holmes, from Lea Croft Road, said: "I thought to myself good God what is that."

"I could see this very big, bright, white object."

"At first I thought it was a car coming from the other direction, but

then realised it was not moving."

"I felt nervous, it was a peculiar feeling, I had read before about UFOs thinking there must be some simple explanation."

The UFO was first spotted by Mr Holmes on Bonsall Moor near the Salters Lane junction at 10.32pm.

As he drove nearer the light it was obviously not a road vehicle but a round airborne object, with curved edges.

Slowing down, Mr Holmes

searched for a safe place to stop on the narrow road, to capture the brilliant image on film.

But despite having a camera in the back he was too slow.

"The size of the light went down, it was as if someone had hit a dimmer switch and it went yellow," added Mr Holmes.

"It started to move into the distance and then disappeared altogether."

[Paper Unknown], England - Oct. 3, 2001

Muchalls man sets up website dedicated to village UFOs

A UNIVERSITY lecturer has set up a website in an attempt to crack the mystery of unexplained sightings in a North-east village.

Muchalls, near Stonehaven, has been the location of many sightings of unidentified flying objects over the years. Tom

Moir, who formerly lived there but now stays in New Zealand, has dedicated a website to the phenomena.

In his website, Mr Moir tells of his first sighting. "I was only 13 at the time and had been returning home at about 6pm from piano lessons at Mackie

Academy in Stonehaven. Muchalls village had no street lights at the time, 1971, and the main Stonehaven-Aberdeen road was much narrower, with no lights."

"I saw a strange red light to my right, in the direction of Cairnhill, that flashed on and

off about once every second ... then I saw an identical red light to my left flashing away. I thought it was two helicopters but then I saw a third red light straight ahead of me - again flashing on and off ...

"I turned round to proceed further and immediately froze -

right in front of me was a figure which seemed to glow ... Eventually I plucked up enough courage to move one step forward and the figure simply melted away."

The website can be accessed at www.angelfire.com/mo/muchalls.

UNEXPLAINED PHENOMENA

Crop circle network rounds up summer troops

ROBIN SUMMERFIELD
CALGARY HERALD

Wanted: Keen people with an eye for the unusual and an otherworldly perspective.

The Canadian Crop Circle Research Network is looking for help this summer to document and investigate the intricate and unexplained flattened crop designs that seem to magically appear in farmers' fields every summer.

"We don't want the nutcases. That's the one problem with it. It does attract some people who are pretty out there — that's the nature of it," said network founder and director Paul Anderson from the organization's headquarters in Vancouver.

The six-year-old network is calling on farmers, pilots, police, RCMP, scientists, the general public and other researchers to come forward to help it document and investigate the suspected extraterrestrial phenomena.

"It helps to be open-minded and enthusiastic and have a general interest in what we're doing," he said.

Research, including taking soil and

plant samples and taking photographs and video of the designs, will be done throughout the summer as sites are discovered, said Anderson.

The 34-year-old hopes the continued research will shed some light on the suspected extraterrestrial designs.

The only thing authentic about the crop circles is society's fascination with the phenomena, said Alan Hildebrand, co-ordinator of the Canadian Fireball Reporting Centre at the University of Calgary and professor of geology and geophysics.

"I think it's well-established that people just made them for the fun of it," said Hildebrand.

The hundreds of thousands of documented hours of video sky-watching

have failed to prove the existence of unidentified flying objects (UFOs), and this is no different, he said.

"People are certainly interested in new, exciting mysteries. So that's the significant thing about crop circles or anything else that falls in that category — Atlantis, Bermuda Triangle, UFOs, the Loch Ness monster. People are interested in those kinds of things," said Hildebrand.

While there are still more questions than answers, Anderson said giving up the quest for the truth about crop circles is not an option.

"There's something about it that keeps you hooked. That's what everybody tells you who does this — I can't even put my finger on it. It's the nature of it, and every year, there's more."

Thousands of circles have cropped up since 1980. According to the network, 12 crop circles were reported across Canada in 2000 — specifically in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec.

To contact the Canadian Crop Circle Research Network, call 604-731-8522 or visit the group's Web site at www.geocities.com/cropcirclecanada.

QUOTABLE

“
We don't
want the
nutcases
”

PAUL ANDERSON,
DIRECTOR OF THE
CANADIAN CROP
CIRCLE RESEARCH
NETWORK

WEST CUMBERLAND TIMES, Cockermouth, England - June 22, 2001

Black triangle spotted flying over Moota

REPORTS of UFO sightings and strange aerial phenomena in West Cumbrian skies are on the increase, a local paranormal investigator has claimed.

Sharon Larkin Rush, told the *Times & Star* that she has received 17 reports in the last two weeks from people saying they have seen unidentified flying objects. The sightings involve everything from cigar-shaped craft, balls of light and discs to the sinister black triangles which have been a major focus of her research work in the last few years.

She is currently investigating a series of reports of a black triangle craft seen over Moota at 3am on May 28.

"I had about half a dozen calls in three hours about it. All the witnesses said it was huge black triangle and it was in the sky just above the Moota hotel," she said.

She wants to hear from others who may have seen something strange in the skies that day. She can be contacted on 07788 543850 or via e-mail at grayuk2000@yahoo.com

Sharon is the investigations/administration director of North West Cumbria UFO

Research and Investigations and a member of Central Investigations into Paranormal Activity and PROJECT FT (Research into Flying Triangles).

She has attracted national and international attention with her claims that West Cumbria is a hotbed of UFO activity and was selected by satellite channel BBC Choice to take part in its new series, *Rush*. She was featured at various locations around the Solway coast and outside the former armaments depot at Broughton Moor, where most of the UFO sightings she investigates are alleged to take place.

She claims to have caught a UFO on camera during a skywatch at the Ministry of Defence-owned site two months ago and is having the three minute footage - which she believes is among the best in the country - analysed by national UFO experts.

Earlier this month a woman in Derbyshire was paid £20,000 by US television company Kiviat Productions for a video of an apparent UFO shot near her home.

Nasa is also said to be interested in viewing the six-minute tape, which Sharon Rowlands made in October, of what appeared to be a three-mile wide saucer.

WILLENHALL NEWS, Wolverhampton, England - Sept. 3, 2001

A case for Mulder and Scully?

Walsall residents could soon be mixing with other life-forms following a reported UFO sighting.

Town resident, Paul Riccobono said that he had seen the 'flying triangle' late Tuesday evening.

And claims the sighting of the strange object occurred as he walked along the main street in Blaxwich at around 9.30pm.

Mr Riccobono said that his first reaction was that it was just an aeroplane flying overhead.

But as the object came closer, it became clear that it was triangular shaped.

Speaking to the Walsall Observer he said: "From what I saw it was about the size of the wing span of a commercial aeroplane."

"I first saw the three lights, the main light and two flashing lights

by Craig Hughes

either side."

Mr Riccobono said that he watched the silent moving aircraft for around ten minutes.

And added the 'flying triangle' seemed to have the ability to change its shape and movement in mid-air.

It went from its original bold triangular shape, into a smaller flatter diamond style form.

This is not the first sighting of this UFO within Britain, with various reports of sightings across the country over the last few years. However, it is believed that this is one of the few UFO sightings to have taken place in Walsall.

Have you seen this strange flying object roaming the area's skys? If so contact me at the AdNews on 01922 626666.



Bigfoot Bob Silva believes they are out there

Bigfoot Bob Silva isn't bashful about his hobby. He wears a "Bigfoot Bob" cap and owns a "Bigfoot Bob" jacket. His Internet name is — what else? — Bigfoot Bob.

"No, I didn't have any trepidation at all about talking to you for a story," he said over lunch at Buster's in Eagle. "Everybody knows me as Bigfoot Bob already, anyway. And when it comes to Bigfoot, most people are ignorant. They haven't researched it."

He e-mailed me about a Bigfoot lunch last spring. Being a skeptic, I procrastinated. After a string of serious columns, however, it was time for a little fun. And Silva is definitely into fun.

When he isn't researching Bigfoot or working at his trucking-company job of 25 years, he's apt to be fly fishing, driving his Model T, coaching Optimist football or puttering in his water garden.

den. He's also married and a father of two. I mention this so you won't think he devotes all his time to tracking Bigfoot.

He did bring a plaster cast of a Bigfoot track someone had given him, however, and how many lunch guests can you say that about? It was a remarkably big foot. If it had been attached to whatever owned it, Bigfoot Bob would have been on the phone to the NFL instead of wasting his time with me.

A native of Walla Walla, Wash., he became interested in Bigfoot after an alleged sighting in 1982.

"It was in the Walla Walla watershed," he said. "The only people allowed there are a Forest Service guard and 100 permit elk hunters a year. That's how restricted it is. The guard was the one who reported the sighting. When I learned that this happened on my own home ground, it sparked my interest."



LUNCH WITH TIM

He went to the public library and read all the Bigfoot books he could find. He learned about cryptozoology, the study of unknown animals. He learned that Bigfoot had a scientific name, Gigantopithecus. He found that there were actual societies devoted to the study of Bigfoot.

In 1989, he attended a Bigfoot symposium at Washington State University.

"I didn't know what to expect," he said. "I mean, what would you expect from a Bigfoot seminar?"

Before I could respond by surmising that my closest



Tim Woodward/The Idaho Statesman

Bigfoot Bob Silva shows off his plaster cast of a — what else? — big foot. Silva has been studying Bigfoot since 1982.

comparable experience was covering a local Star Trek convention, he went on to say that the symposium was rather sedate — scientists, scholars, even a dentist. The Forest Service guard who reported the sighting in the

Walla Walla watershed was there, but by then he'd lost his job for talking too much about it to the local media. Bigfoot Bob learned a lesson from that.

"If you sight one, you tell your best friend about it and he laughs you off," he said. "Then you maybe tell one other person, and then you quit."

Bigfoot Bob has quietly become a repository of Bigfoot information. He has reams of Bigfoot material. He reads the Bigfoot Times. He's trekked the Walla Walla area in search of Bigfoot, unsuccessfully. In May, he attended a Bigfoot conference in Portland, sponsored by the Western Bigfoot Society.

He said there had been Bigfoot sightings in every state, including Idaho.

"The word 'Skookum' is an Indian name for Bigfoot," he said. "You see things named 'Skookum' and

'Skookumchuck' all over Idaho."

Before he put on his Bigfoot cap and headed for work, I asked Bigfoot Bob why he thought so few people believed in Bigfoot.

"People want to see a Bigfoot body because it's the only conclusive evidence," he said. "Everybody says photos and videos could have been faked."

"Me, I don't want a body. Why should we have to kill one to prove it exists? And it does exist. Most people think of Bigfoot as a joke, but it isn't a joke to me. I've never seen one, but I'm convinced they're out there. To me, there's never been any doubt."

Lunch with Tim Woodward. You pick the place. I'll buy. Leave your name, number and what's on your mind at 377-6409, fax me at 377-6449 or e-mail twoodward@idahostatesman.com.

HERALD, Penticton, B.C., Canada - Aug. 15, 2001 CR: G. Conway

Swimmer had company

■ Man tells of seeing large creatures swim below him during marathon from Penticton to Vernon

By DARREN HANDSCHUH
Special to the Herald

VERNON — Ogo-Chaser Daryl Ellis has a whale of a fish tale. And he's glad the fish got away.

Ellis completed a marathon swim Tuesday from Penticton to Vernon to raise money to fight cancer and to raise awareness of the disease.

Ogo-Chaser was a 144-kilometre challenge that brought with it a few surprises for the 52-year-old cancer survivor.

While swimming past Rattlesnake Island near Peachland, Ellis saw two large, swimming creatures. He has no idea what they were.

"For the first few days people didn't

believe me. I saw what I saw," said Ellis. "There were two of them. It was about eight feet below me in the water. It was about 20-30 feet long."

The second creature was smaller, and both kept pace with Ellis for some distance.

"These were blackish-grey. There was something there," he said.



ELLIS

The creatures frightened Ellis, and he headed to his support boat and told driver Wayne Muirhead he wanted to get out.

He didn't tell Muirhead what he saw, and his friend convinced him to stay in the water because he was making good time.

Ellis started swimming again and noticed he still had company.

"They just kind of wanted to follow me along," he said. "There was no way I could shake them."

Ellis said the creatures did not try to harm him, but because of their size

and the fact he didn't know what they were, he was nervous.

Ellis again had an encounter of the unexplainable kind near Kelowna's floating bridge.

"The second time was much clearer when this big eye came up and took a look at me," he said.

Ellis didn't see any humps, which have been associated with Ogopogo, but the eye was the size of a grapefruit and was about nine metres from him. "The front part of it was big."

Ellis didn't tell people immediately because he was worried people might think he was spinning a yarn.

Ellis wondered if the creatures were giant sturgeon, but Steve Matthews, senior fisheries biologist with the Ministry of Environment in Penticton, said there is no proof of sturgeon in Okanagan Lake.

Matthews said there have been anecdotal reports, the most popular one being of giant sturgeon threatening divers building the floating bridge.

"(But) we have no record of sturgeon in the lake."

Creature shows up in sonar scan

KELOWNA — An expedition trying to find Ogopogo has sonar readings it claims shows a huge creature in Okanagan Lake.

"Last Friday, we got two solid sonar hits big-time in the trough off Belgo Creek in Okanagan Mission," search organizer Bill Steciuk said Wednesday.

"We got a real good one on our front scanner 30 metres down and 125 metres ahead of us when we were in 150 metres of water," he said Steciuk.

"We got two scans and then it dropped below the beam. It didn't move laterally because the beam is 150 feet (38 metres) wide and it didn't come up."

The search crew didn't have enough time to get a remote operating vehicle or ROV down to take a televised look but did capture the two 10-second sonar sweeps on a computer hard drive.

The expedition is still analyzing the readings which show an irregular-shaped object moving through the water, said Steciuk.

"I'm guessing it was 40-50 feet long."

He said the search concentrated on sharp drop-offs where creeks enter Okanagan Lake between Rattlesnake Island and Bear Creek.

Although the intense search ended Monday, crew members will continue to look, possibly for another two months, but not on a daily basis.

"I would call the search a success. We accomplished what we set out to do. However, it was a little frustrating for us. We had all these reports coming in (of Ogopogo sightings) where we weren't."

In August, a number of people claimed they saw Ogopogo.

"I can tell you one thing; my three weeks on the lake taught me a lot. I know where and when to look for Ogopogo. And trolling up and down on the lake isn't the way to do it. It can be done with a lot less equipment and half the crew," said Steciuk.

Unless Ogopogo comes to the surface, there isn't enough time to get the ROV down for video, he said.

"It's humming and buzzing like a little creature going down. We eventually went with hand-held cameras with lights."

The expedition survived major engine problems, equipment failures, strong winds and choppy conditions.

The team also spotted what appeared to be a small sturgeon off Bear Creek Provincial Park. Many people have suggested Ogopogo sightings were large lake sturgeon but biologists doubt there are any in the lake.

A one-hour documentary by Tripod Video and Film Productions of Kelowna will include picturesque helicopter footage of the lake, underwater photography of caves near Rattlesnake Island, and a dramatic storyline, said Steciuk.

As his search wound down this week, two crews from Nippon TV in Japan arrived to launch their own expedition.

They plan to search the lake from Peachland to Okanagan Centre Friday through Sunday.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - Oct. 25, 2001

Off the Beaten Path *Compiled by Trey Reid*

Where's Bigfoot?

Bigfoot sightings in Montana aren't new, but recent reports about bipedal primates are causing a new stir in the West.

According to a report in the *Billings* (Mont.) *Gazette*, a rumor about a federal government covering up the death has been the talk of the town.

"The rumors have been going around all summer," rancher Steve Kukowski said. "I have no idea what it is. I have no idea how it got started."

The stories have been circulating for three months. In most, the beast was killed near the Crow Reservation and its corpse was zipped into a body bag and whisked away by federal agents minutes before local authorities could investigate.

Dan Vierthaler, FBI senior

resident agent in Billings, was asked Monday about possible FBI participation in a Bigfoot capture near Billings.

"That's the first I heard of it," he said. "I can assure you that we are not doing anything covertly to hide a body. I do not have a Bigfoot in my evidence locker."

Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, which tracks alien species — including rainbow trout and spotted knapweed — claims no involvement.

"I have no comment," information officer Bill Pryor said, jokingly. "The FBI cleaned everything up."

"Depending on the size of the population, there's a chance we could trap, tag and redistribute some in other parts of the state. You know our routine on anything other than humans — try to build them up to huntable populations and start issuing tags."

Navarre cat owners find pet mutilated

■ The Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office is investigating the circumstances of the feline's death.

By MICHAEL STEWART
Daily News Staff Writer

NAVARRE — The Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office is investigating the death of a cat whose mutilated body was found sliced in half down its middle.

Pattie and John Goodfleisch discovered the partial remains of their cat Saturday lying along a sandy path that cuts through the woods near their home on Navarre Sound Circle.

"What is so heinous about this is that someone took a machete or similar instrument and sliced him in two from just behind his front legs all the way back to his tail bone," John Goodfleisch said.

Lifelong cat lovers, the couple are offering a \$1,000 reward leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for this grisly act.

Sgt. Mitch Tomlinson said Santa Rosa County deputies scoured the woods looking for the weapon used in the mutilation and also for signs of cult activity.

"We have found no evidence of any sacrilegious activity or any type of altars," Tomlinson said.

"In fact, we haven't ruled out the possibility that it was an accident possibly caused by a lawn mower."

The cat's owners dispute that claim. They had a necropsy — the term for a postmortem examination on an animal — performed on their cat by a veterinarian at the Tiger Point Animal Hospital.

"We had heard reports that there were bears in those woods, and we wanted to know what it was that killed him," John said.

The Goodfleischs say the vet-



Daily News/MARI DARR—WELCH
John and Pattie Goodfleisch hold their cat, Kitty, while they ponder who would have cut their cat Maximum in half Saturday and left part of him on a path near their Navarre home.

erinarian, who was unavailable for comment Tuesday, told them that the culprit was human and that the wound did not appear to be accidental.

The couple first noticed their cat Maximum was missing around 7 a.m. Saturday. The solid black cat had uncurled from the foot of their bed around 6 a.m. and exited the pet door for his morning stroll.

"He's usually the first one of our cats back in the morning looking for breakfast," Pattie said.

By 9 a.m., the couple went looking for Max. They found the front half of their pet 30 minutes later.

"We never did find the rest of him," John said.

A person who intentionally commits an act that results in the cruel death of an animal can be charged with a third-degree felony, and could face up to five years in prison, said Sheriff Wendell Hall.

There have been no other reported incidents involving pet mutilations in the Santa Rosa County this year, county Animal Control Manager Patty Hanks said.

Anyone with any information about Max's death can call the Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office at (850) 936-6100.

■ Staff Writer Michael Stewart can be reached at 936-8600 or at mikes@nwfdailynews.com

NEWS-SENTINEL, Knoxville, TN - June 16, 2001

Workers' search for aliens irks TVA

Warning issued on use of computers

By Richard Powelson
News-Sentinel Washington bureau

TVA employees did not find any E.T.s (extraterrestrials) in space, but they did experience some E.T. (extra trouble) here on Earth from their managers.

Most of the agency's employees are focused on power production, but 17 improperly used office computers for as long as a year to check data from space for evidence of aliens, the agency's inspector general found.

All were given warnings that the computer program they used could have allowed hackers direct or indirect access to TVA computers and caused damage.

Downloading the program from the University of California at Berkeley, called SETIhome (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence), was both a violation of written TVA policy and computer security, and future violations could result in dismissal, managers told the guilty employees.

The 16 employees and one contractor, who were not identified in a public report, work in information services, fossil power, transmission and power supply, and river system operations and environment.

TVA computers programmed to search for proof of aliens in space were used for that purpose for as little as one hour or as long as one year, the report said.

Two employees competed to see whose computer could analyze the most radio signal data, the inspector general's investigators found.

Putting the software on computers provides a flashy screen saver for the computer user and allows the university to use idle home or office computers to analyze portions of a giant database of radio signals intercepted in space by a giant radio telescope in Puerto Rico named Arecibo.

When each computer finishes a unit of work, the results are

sent automatically over the Internet to the university's central computer.

More than 3 million Earthlings around the world have downloaded the program, allowing the university free use of the benefits of what amounts to a giant super-computer.

Richard Chambers, TVA's inspector general, said: "If you're allowing others to tap into your computer, you have got some additional risk there."

Anthony Smith, a senior manager of TVA's computer system, said the inspector general's office first detected the SETI programs on TVA computers, and managers made sure all were deleted.

The use of the SETI program on 17 TVA computers presented "some kind of risk," Smith said.

But SETI uses a high level of protective encryption, he found, so there was "a relatively low risk" to TVA.

Still, he said, the incident prompted managers to conduct a massive computer security awareness campaign.

Don Hickman, a senior manager in the TVA inspector general's office, said the staff knew the SETI program could allow hackers into a computer system and pointed to a news story showing at least one successful infiltration of SETI's Web site.

Hackers tricked the SETI Web page into giving them thousands of e-mail addresses of SETI users and then sent users notes claiming to have more information on them.

But David P. Anderson, director of the SETI project, said hackers have never damaged the project's computer system or any computers of its more than 3 million users the past two years.

All Web page invaders got one time was e-mail addresses, he said, and that security loophole has been plugged.

"From two years of experience running the thing, there have been zero security problems involving compromise of anybody's computers," Anderson said.

What kind of person downloads the SETI program? Most apparently are science fiction buffs, according to a survey on the university's Web site, <http://setiathome.ssl.berkeley.edu>.

Of 93,000 who responded:

■ 94 percent think there is life outside of Earth.

■ 58 percent are "not sure" if any aliens found would be friendly or hostile toward Earth's residents; about 36 percent predicted they would be friendly.

■ About 92 percent of the respondents were men. Asked why they run the SETI program on their computers, 58 percent said: "Find E.T. for the good of humanity."

■ About 35 percent of participants said they run their computers 24 hours a day to aid the SETI project.

When will humans detect the first E.T. signal?

■ About 8 percent said within two years; about 38 percent said within 10 years; about 42 percent said within the next 100 years; 7 percent said more than 100 years from now. Only 3.6 percent said never.

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CR: M. McCormack

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR

Ancient city discovered underwater near Cuba

BY MICHAEL POSNER
TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL

A team of Canadian and Cuban researchers has discovered the remains of what may be a 6,000-year-old city submerged in deep ocean waters off the western coast of Cuba.

Using sophisticated sonar and videotape equipment, offshore engineer Paulina Zelitsky, her husband, Paul Weinzwieg, and her son, Ernesto Tapanes, have found megaliths "of a kind you'd find at Stonehenge or Easter Island," Weinzwieg said in an interview.

"Some structures within the complex may be as long as 400 meters wide and as high as 40 meters," he said. "Some are sitting on top of each other. They show very distinct shapes and symmetrical designs of a non-natural kind. We've shown them to scientists in Cuba, the U.S. and elsewhere, and nobody has suggested they are natural."

An anthropologist affiliated with the Cuban Academy of Sciences has said still photos taken from the videotape clearly show "symbols and inscriptions," Weinzwieg said. It is not yet known in what language the inscriptions are written.

The sonar images, he added, bear a remarkable resemblance to the familiar pyramidal design of Mayan and Aztec temples in Mexico.

Weinzwieg said it is too early to draw firm conclusions from the evidence collected so far. The research team plans another foray to the site — off the Guana-hacabibes Peninsula on Cuba's western tip — next month. Next summer, it hopes to return again, this time with the first deep-water mobile excavator, equipped with functions needed for on-site archaeological evaluation, including the ability to blow sand off stone.

Geologists have recently hypothesized that a land bridge once connected Cuba to Mexico's Yucatan peninsula. Parts of the Cuban island are believed to have been submerged in the sea on

three separate occasions in the distant past.

The structures are on a plateau that forms the bottom of what is thought to be a mud volcano. "It's well known that ancient civilizations liked to build at the base of volcanoes because the land is fertile. So that's suggestive," Weinzwieg said.

The precise age of the underwater site also is unknown although Cuban archeologists in 1966 excavated a land-based megalithic structure on the western coast, close to the new underwater discovery, said to date from 4000 B.C. "Based on that and other geological information, we're speculating that these are 6,000 years old," Weinzwieg said. "It's not exact, but they're very ancient."

If that dating estimate proves accurate, it would mean that an ancient civilization had designed and erected these vast stone structures in the Americas only 500 years after human settlements first became organized in cities and states.

The couple's Havana company, Advanced Digital Communications, discovered the site in July of 2000, using side-scan sonar equipment to view what resembled an underwater city, complete with roads, buildings and pyramids.

The team returned this past summer with a 13-ton, unmanned Remotely Operated Vehicle, controlled from the mother ship via fiber-optic cable. Its cameras confirmed the earlier findings, showing vast granitic blocks, between 2 and 5 meters in length, that were cut in perpendicular and circular designs.

But because of technical problems, Weinzwieg said, "we were only able to survey the perimeter of the site. Based on initial explorations, we think it's much larger than even our sonar projections show. It may extend for several kilometers."

Dec. 8, 2001

Second local feline is found mutilated

By AMBER BOLLMAN
Daily News Staff Writer

A Bluewater Bay woman found the mutilated body of her cat last week, just two days after a couple in Navarre found the remains of their pet, which was killed in an almost identical manner, according to a local veterinarian.

Lynette Caulkins, of

Whitewood Way, last saw her 9-year-old cat Gypsy on Sunday, July 2. The following day, a landscaping crew found the gray cat's remains down the block on the front lawn of a home that is for sale.

"It was one of the most awful things I've ever seen," Caulkins said. "Her poor little body was just ripped apart, but I knew it was her from the collar."

The cat's body had been sliced in half down the middle, from just under its ribs to its hind legs, according to Doretha Jones, a doctor who performed a necropsy on the animal at Friendship Veterinary Clinic in Fort Walton Beach.

The organs in the cat's abdomen had been removed from the body, and Gypsy's killer twisted the cat's upper-

body so that it was jammed into its gutted carcass.

"This was very clearly done by a human, not an animal," Jones said. "The body was cut very cleanly, and the innards were removed without a lot of extra ripping or tearing to the flesh."

Jones said the cat was likely

killed with a knife or scalpel blade.

"It was done very meticulously," said Caulkins, who had taken Gypsy in as a stray more than eight years ago.

"It was very obviously done by someone who had practice. There wasn't a lot of blood, and the organs that were not removed were left totally intact," Caulkins said.

Gypsy's body was discovered two days after Pattie and John Goodfleisch found the mutilated remains of their pet cat Maximum in the woods near their home on Navarre Sound Circle.

Veterinary reports concluded that Maximum had also been killed by a human, likely cut in half by a machete or a similar instrument, according to the Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office.

The Goodfleischs are offering a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person responsible for Maximum's killing. The fund has grown to \$2,000, according to Pattie Goodfleisch.

"The police have handled the whole thing really well," Goodfleisch said. "They have been scouring the woods and going door-to-door for information."

TIMES, New York, NY - Dec. 2, 2001

Rosemary Brown, a Friend to Dead Composers, Dies at 85

By DOUGLAS MARTIN

Rosemary Brown, who as a middle-aged widow living in a London suburb in the 1960's said she had been in contact with history's most illustrious composers, offering as evidence hundreds of piano miniatures that she said Beethoven, Bach and others had "dictated" to her, died on Nov. 16 in London. She was 85.

The odd experiences she described — which included shopping with Liszt (he was interested in the price of bananas) and watching television with Chopin (he was appalled) — found a resonant audience in the era of the Beatles and flower power. More intriguingly, they attracted expert scrutiny and some approbation from such luminaries as Leonard Bernstein, along with tidal waves of more or less good-natured ridicule from most of the music establishment.

Mrs. Brown's credibility as a medium was buttressed by her own musical ignorance. She had just three years of piano instruction and could not play by ear or extemporize. There was no record player or radio in her home and she said she never went to concerts.

"I seemed to lose control of my hands; it was as though someone were guiding them," she said of the first time she received a piece of music from Liszt.

Peter Katin, an outstanding interpreter of Chopin, was pleased to record many of the piano works, while the composer Humphrey Searle published an essay noting the similarity of Mrs. Brown's Liszt pieces with his later official compositions. Mr. Bernstein suggested he could "buy," meaning accept, a piece by Rachmaninoff, but not much else.

André Previn, then conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra, said that if the newfound compositions were genuine, they would best

A medium who said she had shopped with Liszt.

have been left on the shelf.

But the British composer Richard Rodney Bennett seemed entirely convinced, at least at the time. He said that when he was having trouble with a composition of his own, Mrs. Brown passed along Debussy's recommendation. It worked.

"If she is a fake, she is a brilliant one, and must have had years of training," he said in an interview in Time magazine. "Some of the music is awful, but some is marvelous. I couldn't have faked the Beethoven."

Regardless of how much Western music may or may not have been enriched by posthumous contributions channeled by Mrs. Brown, there was scant doubt of her entertainment value. She set off waves of interest in several appearances on British Broadcasting Corporation radio shows, the first in 1969. In the United States, she played at Town Hall in New York and appeared on "The Tonight Show" with Johnny Carson, telling him that her sources said there was no sex in heaven.

She described the various composers in often humorous detail. Beethoven, she said, was no longer deaf and had lost "that crabby look." Debussy wore "very bizarre clothes" and was "a hippie type." Chopin kept screaming something in French; it turned out to be a warning that her bathtub was overflowing.

Later she enjoyed visits from the ghosts of other celebrated people, including Shakespeare, Van Gogh and St. Paul. All the visits, she contended, were intended only to prove the existence of an afterlife.

Rosemary Dickeson was born on July 27, 1916, in southwest London. Her father was an electrician and her mother a catering manager. The family's apartment was above a dance hall, and she won dance contests as a girl. But her father vetoed a dancing career.

The most significant event of her youth occurred when she was 7. She had a vision of an elderly man with long white hair, wearing a black gown. He said he was Liszt. "He told me that when I grow up, he would give me music," she said.

"I've always had the ability, ever since I can remember, to see and hear people who are thought of as dead," she said in an interview with Newsweek.

In 1943, she contracted polio, which left her left side weak. When she was 15, she took a job as a clerk at the post office. When walking home from work one day, she said a voice told her to take a different route. A bombing raid struck her usual route.

In 1948, she got an upright piano and took lessons for the third time; as always, they lasted about a year.

In 1952, she married Charles Brown, a government scientist who had once worked as a gardener for King Farouk of Egypt. In 1961, her husband and her mother died. She began visiting spiritualists active in the emerging New Age thinking.

In 1964, she suffered an accident at the school kitchen where she worked and resumed playing the piano during her long recovery. That was when Liszt returned, as promised. She recognized him immediately, she said, and he arranged for the other composers to come, acting "like sort of a reception desk."

They took different approaches. Chopin told her what notes to play and pushed her fingers down on the right keys. Beethoven and Bach liked her to sit at a table and take dictation with a pencil. Schubert tried to sing



Rosemary Brown

his compositions, but "he hasn't a very good voice," she said.

She was supported by contributions from people who believed in the occult. She wrote three books on her channeling, and made a number of recordings, some featuring her playing the easier pieces, the last in 1988. In the mid-1980's, the visits ceased as she fell into ill health. She is survived by a son and a daughter.

She always declined to ask her musical visitors the questions that outsiders thought would prove their existence. When Time offered her a list of 20 questions, she replied, "I cannot push a button and call on the composers just like that."

But when she needed notes for an album cover in 1970, Sir Donald Tovey, a musicologist, was pleased to provide them. "It is the implications relevant to this phenomenon that we hope will stimulate sensitive interest," he said.

He had died in 1940.

USA TODAY, Washington, DC - Dec. 6, 2001

Did Sept. 11 events refocus global consciousness?

By A.S. Berman
USA TODAY

As the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks plunged the world into confusion, a handful of researchers detected a noticeable ripple in what some believe is an interconnected Web of global consciousness.

Nearly three months later, they aren't sure what, if anything, it means.

On that day, 37 computers from New Zealand to Israel participating in the Global Consciousness Project were doing just what they've done since August 1998: using random-number-generating devices to "flip" virtual coins. And as before, every five minutes, software on those computers uploaded the results to the project's Web site.

With each computer essentially flipping 200 coins at a time, one would expect the results to be 50-50 — about 100 of those tosses would come up heads, 100 tails.

On Sept. 11, however, results from all the project's random number generators appeared to shed their random-

ness, and lean significantly in the same direction.

Though the project's aim has been to determine whether focusing world attention on a single event somehow interferes with the usual randomness, researchers are hesitant to jump to conclusions.

Roger Nelson, of the Princeton Engineering Anomalies Research program at Princeton University, also directs the independent Global Consciousness Project. He declined comment, but the site notes that "occasionally there are global-scale events that bring great numbers of us to a common focus and an unusual coherence of thought and feeling." Results on the site suggest the effects of Sept. 11 were the biggest ever.

Dean Radin, who does scientific research on consciousness at the Institute of Noetic Sciences in Petaluma, Calif., and who has been involved in this project, notes that researchers are wary of publicity, because if attention can affect a random events generator, as some

studies suggest, having a mass audience focus on the experiment itself could conceivably skew results.

"We're not dealing with something as simple as thoughts affecting the system," Radin maintains. "But there is a correlation, and it's not clear how that comes about."

On Sept. 11, an initial statistical spike was seen right after the collapse of the first tower of the World Trade Center, Radin says; anomalies are noted about every 15 days and not considered unusual. But when he examined the results from an hour later, then six hours later, the numbers still were elevated.

It was at that point, he says, that "if you had not known Sept. 11 was unusual, you would've settled on Sept. 11 as being an unusual day," solely on the basis of those results.

Shortly after learning of the World Trade Center's destruction in New York, Mark Pilkington, who covers strange phenomena for the *Fortean Times* magazine, based in London, says he "went straight to the (project's) site to see if it registered something, and it did."

An avowed skeptic on many subjects his magazine covers, Pilkington nevertheless says, "the brain is an electrical device, so it's not inconceivable that it might have an effect on magnetic fields" and electrical equipment.

Past events with a strong world focus have scored interesting, though less dramatic, fluctuations in the project's numbers; these include the funeral for Princess Diana and last year's sinking of Russia's Kursk submarine.

Some experts, however, would question the project's analysis of the Sept. 11 data. A couple of additional statistical adjustments would have to be made to determine if there really was a spike in the numbers, says Woolcott Smith, professor of statistics at Temple University in Philadelphia.

In the end, Radin says, it's simply too early to say what it all means.

► noosphere.princeton.edu
► noosphere.princeton.edu/dean/wtc0921.html
► www.noetic.org

E-mail aberman@usatoday.com

Rumors common, sasquatch aren't

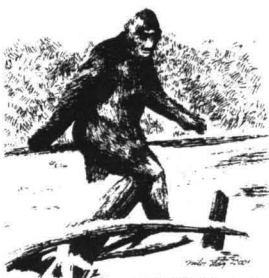
By JAMES HAGENGRUBER
Of The Gazette Staff

A Pryor Creek rancher said he didn't shoot bigfoot this summer.

Contrary to widely circulating rumors, Steve Kukowski said no bipedal primate ever terrorized his livestock, was killed by his bullet or was taken away by federal agents.

"The rumors have been going around all summer," Kukowski said. "I have no idea what it is. I have no idea how it got started."

The sasquatch story has persisted for three months, but there are many different versions. Rudy Drobnick, a retired wildlife biologist with the Utah Department of Natural Resources, has been tracking the tales. Drobnick tracks bigfoot



VICTOR ADY illustration

sightings across the nation. "The reports range from an enlarged black widow spider to a giant mouse to a blown up tire on the road," said Drobnick, in a telephone interview from his office in Salt Lake City. "I have no details on any aspect of it other than a bigfoot had been

killed, shot or maybe hit on the road somewhere near Billings."

Given the three-month lifespan of the rumor and the emergence of common themes, Drobnick believes further investigation is needed. "At this point in time, based on my information, the thing is to be pursued as if it was a real creature," he said.

In most of the stories, the sighting occurred on the Crow Reservation, the beast was black and hairy and its corpse was zipped into a body bag and whisked away by federal agents minutes before local authorities could investigate.

Dexter Fallsdown, director of public safety for the Crow Tribe, described what he has heard: "A bigfoot got killed, some people came and picked him up and took him away."

Fallsdown said there has never been substantiating evidence.

"We tried to do a follow up on him, but all of the sudden it was hush hush," he said. "I think it's just the rumor mill."

Federal and state agents claim no knowledge of a missing link living near Pryor, about 40 miles south of Billings.

Dan Vierthaler, FBI senior resident agent in Billings, was asked Monday about possible FBI participation in a bigfoot capture near Billings.

"That's the first I heard of it," he said. "I can assure you that we are not doing anything covertly to hide a body. I do not have a bigfoot in my evidence locker."

Vierthaler said he was

able populations and start issuing tags."

Drobnick said he and a group of friends have recorded about 100 possible bigfoot sightings over the last 20 years. During hunting season, when Drobnick measures trophy game animals for the Boone and Crocket Club, he asks hunters if they spotted any unusual wildlife in the backcountry.

Most people say no, but there have been credible reports of sightings, Drobnick said. "There have been at least two cases I have investigated here where people have had bigfoots in front of their cars," he said.

In 1976, a hunter driving on a snowy mountain road south of Salt Lake City had to stop his Toyota pickup to allow a bigfoot to cross the road. Another hunter briefly spotted a bigfoot in his truck's headlights in the same area. The creature stood in the road, before "he finally went off the road and into the snowy night," Drobnick said.

Drobnick also heard from a man who spotted bigfoot while driving down a dirt road in Arizona in a tractor-trailer. The driver had to lock his brakes to avoid hitting the beast.

"The bigfoot was in the headlights jostling left and right, not knowing which way to go," he said. "When people continue to bring in reports that they have seen this tall, black, hairy creature when they have been out in

the hills, they must have seen something," Drobnick said. "There have been hoaxes, admittedly."

Reports of sasquatch have been coming in for 200 years, he said. "That's a pretty long time to continue a hoax," he said. "It's also a rather hazardous hoax to put on a black suit with hair during archery season for elk and deer."

Along with the bigfoot in Crow Country, there was also a report of a black and hairy creature spotted by Boy Scouts in the Wind River Mountains of Wyoming on July 25, Drobnick said.

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Evidence sketchy

Drobnick said he has never seen physical evidence of a bigfoot — and he is yet to be fully convinced of its existence — but he thinks the possibility is worth investigating.

In a 1997 report, Drobnick said the planet is five billion years old and has "supported many forms of life much more bizarre than the reported bigfoot, such as dinosaurs, whales, penguins, bats, giant octopuses, duck-billed platypus, chimpanzees, orangutans and gorillas."

At the end of the report, Drobnick urges states to pass laws protecting possible bigfoot populations "in order to ensure their safety throughout the coming years."

David Turns Plenty Sr., a min-

ister and Pryor's elected representative to the Crow Tribe's executive committee, said the bigfoot stories continue to circulate in his community.

"There's different stories, but the one I heard was this one rancher had shot it when he saw it amongst his cattle," Turns Plenty said. "They say they took the thing to Bozeman, then I heard again that they took it out of state. A lot of people say it's for it real. I don't know."

Although no evidence supports the existence of a Pryor ape man, Drobnick said he will keep an open mind and continue searching for proof of the unknown species.

"We'll certainly keep attempting to get to the bottom of this mystery," he said. "If this thing is a hoax, then there's thousands of people being fooled by it. If it's real, we're just being eluded."

James Hagengruber can be reached at 657-1232 or at jhagengruber@billingsgazette.com

Not getting involved

Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, which tracks alien species — including rainbow trout and spotted knapweed — claims no involvement.

"I have no comment," Information Officer Bill Pryor said, jokingly. "The FBI cleaned everything up."

If a sasquatch community exists in Yellowstone or Bighorn counties, FWP would be interested in learning more, Pryor said.

"Depending on the size of the population, there's a chance we could trap, tag and redistribute some in other parts of the state," he said. "You know our routine on anything other than humans — try to build them up to hunt-

By Bryan Okada
Knight Ridder Newspapers

FORT WORTH, Texas — A vast, subglacial lake discovered more than two miles below the South Pole has captured the imaginations not only of scientists, but also of conspiracy theorists, alien-encounter types and devotees of urban myths.

NASA wants to use Lake Vostok

to test equipment for a planned mission to Jupiter. Microbiologists want to study life in extreme climates. Environmentalists want to halt exploration to keep the lake, believed to have the purest water on Earth, free of contaminants.

UFO buffs and X-philies are claiming that the fabled Atlantis itself may lie beneath the South Pole.

To put it simply, Lake Vostok is cool.

The Russians have had a base at Lake Vostok since the 1950s, but it was not until two decades later that scientists suspected there was something beneath it. Since 1989, scientists and engineers have been drilling the ice sheet above Lake Vostok to study the Earth's past climates. Drilling

was abruptly halted when researchers hit a layer of retrozon ice 120 meters thick. That led to speculation, later confirmed, that almost 12,000 feet below the base there is a 9,000-square-mile subglacial lake about the size of Lake Ontario. The water is unusually warm, probably a little below 32 degrees Fahrenheit, compared with 67 degrees below zero at the surface.

U.S. scientists studied the refrozen ice and found bacteria, which could suggest that a whole ecosystem different from ours — an alternate ecology — may have existed for thousands, maybe millions, of years.

"That's what we know, and it's not much," said John Pissic, a Montana State University microbial ecology professor who conducted the study.

"We know there's life down there, and it's a bizarre environment under three miles of ice, and it's been there a long time. That's pretty wild."

Pissic is leading another study this summer, so the picture should become clearer in the next year or so.

Lake under South Pole excites scientists and UFO buffs

WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL, Madison, WI - July 26, 2001 CR: R. Heiden

Web site has fun with Bigfoot legend

Kit available online packages bait, repellent, tracking guide and a bit of fur

By RICK ELMORE
of the East Oregonian

FOSSIL — For the traveler or adventure seeker, finding Bigfoot may be a quest, a trip for fun, or just an excuse to get out into the great outdoors of the Pacific Northwest.

Finding Bigfoot, however, has been the challenge as the

skeptics continue to question photographs and other proof of sightings. Those hoping to find the beast have a new ally.

An Eastern Oregon Internet-based company is packaging "tools" to help lure, track and, hopefully, repel the legendary Bigfoot. The Official BigFoot Fur Co. packages fur from the animal along with bait, repellent and a tracking guide in a BigFoot Tracking Kit available for \$14.95 each.

The company is owned by Fossil residents Jeffrey Pickering, his wife Karlana, and her mother Edith Lowe. Through their Web site, www.bigfootfur.com, the company has taken orders from as far away as Texas and Missouri since the Internet page was launched July 4.

The company also is planning to get retailers to pick up on Bigfoot's scent and sell the kits as well as T-shirts priced upwards of \$24.

"Planet of the Apes is coming out soon, and I imagine when people see that and come out

here to go camping this weekend, things will pick up more," Jeffrey Pickering said. "This is Bigfoot central. We've done a lot of research. It's meant for people to have fun." "The business already is filling out as many as 10 orders a

day, Pickering said, and he's negotiating with the retailers to sell the products in stores. E-mail inquiries, about 100 a day,

also are flooding the Pickering's computer.

Pickering said most of the e-mail inquiries he gets are just that — questions from the curious who picked up on the first BigFoot Tracking Kit offered on the Internet auction site, eBay.

The kit was one put together by the family and given as Christmas presents to other family members and friends a little more than six months ago.

"We watched the Discovery Channel and all these Bigfoot documentaries," Pickering said. "They're pretty serious, but we wanted it to be fun."

Pickering calls the Bigfoot "fur" a novelty, but the bait and repellent are tools used by "professionals" who track the legendary Bigfoot.

On the company's site, a photo contest has drawn entries from across the region and state. A Haiku contest, featuring poems about Bigfoot, was posted Monday and had entries the next day, Pickering said.

One woman is a little more convinced now that the kits really do work. Sandy Rosenberg and her sister Madelyn went hiking in May near Sisters in Central Oregon.

"Our friend had one and said 'here, take this,' she said. 'It had the repellent and bait. We set the bait out and when we woke up the next morning, it was missing.'"

Sandy Rosenberg said she has since requested another friend to take a BigFootFur tracking kit to "see what happens." Rosenberg herself, a Kennewick resident, said she believed in the Bigfoot legend when she was a child and the kit brings back the legends and stories.

"After (the bait) was gone we decided we'd hike a little further the next day," Rosenberg said. "If anything else, the bait does make a musty tent smell good."

Rosenberg describes the bait as having a "sagey-lavendary" smell to it, a pleasant smell that she said is what keeps Bigfoot away.

"It smells quite nice, actually," Rosenberg said.